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Crude Oil today explosion in transportation Quebec

Sunday, 7 July 2013

News.com.au report

<http://www.news.com.au/world-news/train-carrying-oil-explodes-in-quebec-town/story-fndir2ev-1226675423699>

“Smoke rises from railway cars that were carrying crude oil after

derailing in downtown Lac- Megantic, Quebec. Picture: The Canadian Press, Paul Chiasson

AT least one person is dead and many more are reported missing after a train carrying crude oil derailed in Quebec, Canada, sparking explosions and a major fire.

Up to 1000 people in the small town of Lac-Megantic were forced from their homes in the middle of the night as the blaze ripped through the town centre.

Witnesses say the eruptions sent residents scrambling through the streets under the intense heat of towering fireballs and a red glow that lit up the night sky. Quebec provincial police Lieutenant Michel Brunet has confirmed one person has died.....

.....Flames and billowing black smoke could be seen more than 12 hours after the derailment, which involved a 73-car train.

"When you see the centre of your town almost destroyed, you'll understand that we're asking ourselves how we are going to get through this event," an emotional Mayor Colette Roy Laroche told a televised news briefing.....

....."On a beautiful evening like this with the bar, there were a lot of people there," said Bernard Demers, who owns a restaurant near the blast site. "It was a big explosion. It's a catastrophe. It's terrible for the population."

Demers, who fled his home, said the explosion was "like an atomic bomb. It was very hot. ... Everybody was afraid".

Charles Coue said he and his wife felt the heat as they sprinted from their home after an explosion went off a couple of hundred metres away.

"It went boom and it came like a fireball," he said.....

.....Media reports said as many as 60 residents of the small town were missing....

.....Police and firefighters secured a perimeter around the area, where about 30 buildings continued to burn.....”

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Just one tanker... accidents happen in Australia too...
Road blocked after fuel tanker rolls

Thursday, 11 July 2013

The Age
by Isaac Johanson - 11/07/13, 5:31 PM

<http://m.theage.com.au/victoria/road-blocked-after-fuel-tanker-rolls-20130711-2psmb.html>

Road blocked after fuel tanker rolls

“A fuel tanker has overturned and is leaking petrol blocking a main road south of Melbourne.

Frankston-Flinders road and the Westernport highway intersection at Tyabb is blocked after the tanker rolled at 3pm on Thursday.

Country Fire Authority are on the scene and say the tanker, holding 39,000 litres unleaded petrol, is leaking.

"We are currently putting foam on the leak to stop sparking and the council has been requested to bring soil to stop petrol leaking," a CFA spokeswoman said.

The driver escaped unharmed. No other cars are believed to be involved.

The CFA spokeswoman said that it would probably take hours until the area is cleared.

Vicroads is warning motorists to avoid the area.....”

Save Williamstown comment:

And QUESTIONS...

Is Westernport really an alternative to Pt Gellibrand for fuel importation by ship and when? If fuel importation by ship were to change to Westernport from Williamstown, will road tankers need to drive during the nighttime through the leafy suburbs of Toorak or Brighton to avoid the tunnels of CityLink? Who is going to answer these really valid questions of risk and safety?

Classically Safety Authorities neglect the dangers of what they refer to a transportation situations. They stop their consideration at “Tanks with Bunds”. That is until there is a catastrophic incident and then they all duck for cover saying they never knew this or that could happen and they did all the right thinks.. Well do they?

No one wants to calculate the dangers of the fuel importation by ship even though ships with over 100,000 tonnes of hydrocarbon will be berthed for 10 days at a time at Pt Gellibrand from 2014. It is about time the government looked realistically at these dangers and stopped residential encroachment onto such facilities. The ships in port would qualify as a Major Hazard Facility in their own right and Port of Melbourne should start looking after the safety needs of nearby

communities, before it is too late. Their own safety document says that at Pt Gellibrand pier there is a risk of Fire or Explosion - the community wants to know what are the calculations from a QRA by the Port - how far could a fireball travel from the fuel arms which connect with the ships. Back in 1992, the calculation from a QRA done by Quantarisk was 1460 metres.

<http://88-167-53->

117.rev.bulletproof.net/environment/~media/Global/Docs/SEMP.ashx

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AND it does happen in Australia - Petrol spill - no fire -
1000m exclusion zone - 130K litres spill in Botany NSW

Friday, 12 July 2013

SBS News

<http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/1788228/Three-in-hospital-after-major-fuel-spill>

Failsafe system halts Sydney fuel leak

A potential inferno and environmental disaster in Sydney has been averted, with a retaining wall preventing a broader spill of 2 million litres of fuel.

A failsafe measure has prevented a potential inferno and environmental disaster in south Sydney after 130,000 litres of fuel gushed from a Caltex terminal.

A retaining wall, known as bunding, contained the spill from a tank containing a total of two million litres of unleaded fuel at the Banksmeadow site.

Two workers were carrying out maintenance about 1.30am (AEST) on Friday when a malfunction occurred on a valve, dousing them with fuel.

Fire crews responded and shut the valve but 130,000 litres surged into the outdoor containment area surrounding the tank and bounded by the retaining wall.

The area measured about 25m by 50m, NSW Fire and Rescue said. Paramedics treated the two workers at the scene before taking them to Prince of Wales Hospital in stable conditions.

A firefighter exposed to the fumes took himself to hospital, suffering a headache.

Hazmat crews applied a thick blanket of foam to the spill before Caltex workers devise a plan to pump the fuel back into tank.

"It (foam) stops the fumes from the petrol mixing with air and forming an explosive mixture," Fire and Rescue Superintendent Tom Cooper told reporters at the site.

"Petrol is very volatile at low temperatures and when it mixes in the right concentration with air you do have a problem."

Six fire trucks and crews responded to the initial incident.

But the job was so large two crews from Sydney Airport fire service were called to help and additional foam was brought in from nearby Kernell.

Police established a 1000m exclusion zone just after the incident before scaling it back to 500m....."

SW Comment

This spill is about 100 tonnes...

How dangerous are fuel importation ships at Pt Gellibrand with 100,000 tonnes of petrol?

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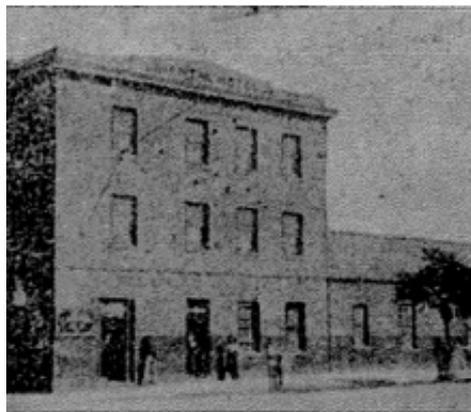
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The Oriental Hotel, 1904. Source: 'Williamstown Illustrated'.

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Oldest Hotel in Williamstown - Cox's Family Hotel
became Barkly, became Oriental. Proven to be 1854

Friday, 12 July 2013

Hobsons Bay Weekly
By Goya Dmytryshchak

<http://www.maribyrnongweekly.com.au/story/1628974/oriental-hotel-hearing-finds-1854-link/?src=rss>

Oriental Hotel hearing finds 1854 link

“WILLIAMSTOWN residents have claimed a small win in the battle to save Victoria’s oldest three-storey brick hotel.

Residents and Hobsons Bay council are fighting a developer who wants to demolish the Oriental Hotel, on the corner of Nelson Place and Anne Street, and build a six-storey, 83-dwelling apartment block. Following a 10-day major case hearing, the developer conceded the building dates back to 1854.

Evolve Development had previously claimed the pub dated back to 1871. But the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal last Friday heard that surveyor **measurements in 1854 were taken in links, not feet**, supporting the case of the council and residents.....”

SAVE WILLIAMSTOWN comment:

Our oldest standing hotel should be protected. Although a plain building this does not mean it is not significant. It represents the early Victorian architecture which was still influenced by plain Georgian architecture as found in the old hotels in Tasmania. It is also possibly the oldest three storey brick hotel in Victoria with the National Trust website stating that the Eastern Hill Hotel (previously the Belvedere) which is currently 3 storey, did in fact start its life as a two storey building.

http://vhd.heritage.vic.gov.au/search/nattrust_result_detail/67221

Developers should not be allowed to destroy such important heritage buildings in Williamstown.

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Expansion boost for bay ferry bid

Friday, 26 July 2013

Hobsons Bay Weekly
By Laura Little July 25, 2013

<http://www.maribyrongweekly.com.au/story/1661436/expansion-boost-for-bay-ferry-bid/?src=rss>

“HOBSONS Bay residents could be swapping car trips for ferry rides into Melbourne within two years following expansion of Wyndham Harbour.

Planning Minister Matthew Guy last week announced plans to add about 150 houses and 500 people to the Werribee South marina development **to improve viability** of a proposed ferry service from Werribee to the CBD. The government says the ferry will stop at Werribee, Altona and Williamstown.

Mr Guy said Wyndham Harbour was one of the most significant developments for the western suburbs since World War II and the expansion was a key part of a future ferry service.....”

SW Comment

So is 2000 people at the Former Port Phillip Woollen Mill Development going to improve viability so much that the Werribee South viability becomes a liability! I guess Evolve have also been discussing possibilities with the government.

I think we may become seasick with all of Mr Guy's brilliant ideas! 90 minutes journey to work from Werribee, Altona will apparently miss out and Williamstown has the slow leg along the 5 knot limit Yarra. However if it is cheap (and commuter travel has to be value for money) it should compete for the tourist dollar with the expensive ferry Williamstown / Southgate which may lose viability.

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Tavares near Orlando Florida Gas Plant Explosions

Tuesday, 30 July 2013

Sky News

<http://news.sky.com/story/1122013/florida-gas-plant-explosions->

workers-found

“.....Nearby residents were evacuated

Seven workers had initially been taken to hospital, some with serious injuries, after emergency crews were called to the Blue Rhino propane processing plant.

The explosions were strong enough to blow the roof off and were felt by residents living up to 10 miles away from the scene, although no neighbours were injured.

Firefighters' efforts were hampered when more fuel containers exploded as the flames spread. They are starting to contain the flames and the cause of the explosions is being investigated.....

....."Although there were other containers that could have exploded, it seems we've escaped that possibility ."

Lake County Sheriff Department spokesman Lt John Herrell later said the evacuation zone around the scene had been reduced from a mile to half a mile.....”

SW Comment

Another hydrocarbon explosion with a 1.6km exclusion zone later reduced to 800m

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