

TO: Distribution

FROM: M. D. Lunsford
DATE: 07/01/93

SUBJECT: VCNet Meeting Information

fickle
7/9

As you know, Vista is a member of VCNet, a panel of CMA working on Vinyl Chloride Transportation Safety. The panel meets 3-4 times per year to discuss common transportation safety issues, and has sponsored the Vinyl Chloride training workshops.

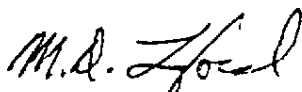
Attached is information obtained from the last VCNet Meeting. The information is as follows:

1. A copy of a letter from Oxy to the EPA concerning VCM's status as an "acute toxic substance".
2. A letter that Oxy uses for guidance whenever they are forced, as a last resort, to ship a car that does not meet DOT specifications due to damage incurred in transit, or when shipping a car with a capping kit in place.
3. An emergency response press information sheet for VCM that was developed for use in a VCNet response by a contractor or VCNet industrial response team.
4. A donation agreement between LSU and Oxy for the donation of tank cars to the university. It seems that LSU is trying to put a tank car school together, and is soliciting damaged tank cars for the project. This may be worth looking into, if we have any damaged or out-of-date cars available.
5. An article on Greenpeace's Anti-PVC campaign in North America.

a Hacker

As I have discussed with some of you, VCNet is working with the CMA to discuss the paragraph in the OSHA VCM Standard that prohibits entry into atmospheres containing 36,000 ppm or unknown concentrations of VCM except for life rescue. Questions have arisen concerning the definition of entry as a result of the new confined space regulation. Also in discussion is the requirement to label PVC resin above and beyond what is required by the Hazard Communication standard, and OSHA's field instructions on that requirement.

As I attend these meetings, and as I receive more information from the group, I will pass anything interesting along. If you have any questions concerning any of this information, please let me know.


M. D. Lunsford

Distribution: Houston- JMK VEM TGG
LCCP- KLF
ABER- CMM
OKC- BKE

VPA 000014942

VCNet VCM RAILROAD TANK CAR

Emergency Response Press Information

HANDOUT

INTRODUCTION TO VCM:

Vinyl chloride monomer (VCM) is a basic chemical building block and is mainly used as a raw material in the production of polyvinyl chloride (PVC). PVC is used to make "vinyl" products such as wallcoverings, upholstery, flooring, house siding, water and sewer pipe, luggage, clothing, automotive parts, medical devices, food wrap, window frames, wire insulation, garden hoses, and phonograph records.

Approximately 13 billion pounds of VCM is manufactured in the United States each year. About five billion pounds of VCM was transported by railroad tank cars in 1992.

VCM RELEASE - POTENTIAL HAZARDS TO THE COMMUNITY:

Fire and Explosion Hazards

In gaseous form, vinyl chloride is extremely flammable. A gas cloud may form if a release occurs. If ignited, such a cloud could result in an explosion. Also, vinyl chloride vapors, which are heavier than air, may travel along the ground and could be ignited by distant ignition sources. Therefore, if there is a serious leak, the public would be asked to evacuate at least one-half mile from the scene of the incident.

Short-Term Exposure Toxicity

When VCM is present in sufficiently high vapor concentrations - about 10,000 parts per million (ppm) - the vapor has an anaesthetic effect. The odor of VCM can usually be detected when it reaches a concentration of 1000 ppm. Since VCM liquid vaporizes very quickly, the liquid becomes cold. If skin is exposed to the liquid, frostbite will occur.

Long-Term Exposure Toxicity

There should be no long-term or chronic health problems even if any person was exposed to low concentrations of VCM for a number of days. Prior to development of advanced process and emission control technology, long-term exposure to VCM at higher concentrations over a number of years resulted in a rare liver cancer among some workers.

If you have questions, I will try to get the answers for you.

May 12, 1993

WPA 000014943

VCM Tank Car If-Needed Statement
Oct. 5, 1992

Seven railcars owned or leased by Vista Chemical and filled with vinyl chloride monomer, or VCM, were derailed last night in the town of Karnack, Texas, approximately 25 miles northwest of Shreveport, La.

The VCM shipment was from Vista Chemical's Lake Charles VCM Plant and was being shipped to the company's Oklahoma City Plant, where it was to have been used to make polyvinyl chloride, or PVC, plastic resin.

Two cars have derailed, two are upside down and three are on their sides. None are leaking at this time, no one has been injured and the situation is stable at this time, according to Kansas City Southern railroad and local sheriff's department personnel on the scene. Five of the cars, all owned by Vista, each contain 30,000 gallons of VCM. The remaining two cars are leased by Vista and each contain 26,000 gallons of VCM.

VCM is a colorless gas and is shipped as a liquid under pressure. VCM vapors in air are flammable.

The accident scene is near State Highway 43 and approximately two blocks from an elementary school in the town of Karnack. The school has been closed for the day.

A chemical industry emergency response team from Morton Thiokol, the local sheriff's department and railroad officials are now at the scene. A Vista emergency response team from Lake Charles is also on the scene. Railroad personnel are moving emergency equipment to the scene to help right and move the cars. Plans now call for the five most heavily damaged cars to be moved to a site more than a mile from town. Vista Chemical is finding empty tank cars in the area which can then be used to offload the VCM from the damaged railcars. The remaining two cars will be set back on the track and sent on their way.

The railroad has made all the proper notifications, including National Response Center, the Bureau of Explosives, ChemTrec (emergency response center of the Chemical Manufacturers Association), Texas Department of Safety, Texas Railroad Commission, Harrison County Sheriff's Dept.

Use if asked:

Q. What time was derailment?

A. We were informed of the accident about 4 a.m. this morning. We don't know the exact time of the accident.

Q. Isn't VCM a carcinogen?

A. Exposures to large amounts of VCM over long periods of time (years) has been shown to cause cancer in humans. However, we believe no one in the area is currently at risk because there have been no leaks. The immediate danger until the cars can be emptied is from possible explosion and fire in the event of a leak.



By Rich Lyons/Longview News-Journal correspondent

Railroad crews work to right overturned cars Monday following a derailment near Karnack early Monday morning. Derailment of the cars, which contained vinyl chloride monomer, forced the evacuation of a half-mile area around the site.

Karnack train derailment closes school, ammo plant

By Rich Lyons
News-Journal Correspondent

KARNACK — A Kansas City Southern freight train loaded with flammable chemicals derailed here early Monday morning, causing the local elementary school to keep its doors closed and Longhorn Army Ammunition Plant to turn workers away.

No leaks were discovered in the seven tank cars that left the track at the crossing in front of the ammunition plant.

The derailment occurred at 3 a.m., and residents were backed up one-half mile from the gates of the ammunition plant as emergency workers began rerailing the cars containing vinyl chloride monomer.

VCM is a compressed liquid gas that shares the same

flammable properties as compressed propane gas.

Some residents of the town left in a panic when they believed early, incorrect reports that the gas was highly toxic and was escaping from the cars.

"VCM is not particularly toxic," said Kerry L. Gregg, community relations coordinator for Vista Chemical Company, the shipper, headquartered in Houston, "but it is flammable, it is a human carcinogen, and studies show after years of constant exposure there is some increased risk of cancer."

"It was once used as an anesthetic in surgery before more modern medicines were available. Fortunately, in this incident, we had no fire, no leaks and no injuries."

The cars were en route from Westlake, La., to Oklahoma City.

Ok., where the chemical would be used in the production of polyvinyl chloride (PVC), a white plastic used primarily in the manufacture of plumbing pipes.

Of the seven cars involved, three were on their side, two were upside down, and two were off the tracks but still standing.

"Looking at the tank cars, it appears there is damage to them, when in reality these cars are designed to withstand the severe impact," said Mike Lunsford, safety director of the Vista Chemical plant in Westlake.

"The steel on the outside of the cars is there to hold four inches of insulation on the cars. We don't think there is any damage

See Derailment, 9-A

envis ET co

By Toni K. Laxson
Staff Writer

Longview's federal program may move cramped church building on Cotton Street to become a centerpiece of Head Start East Texas," said Monday.

But it will require a effort of the city of Longview school district social agency and "the die community who have interest in the need being of some very zens," said Dr. Ron superintendent of the school district.

McMichael was men Monday to Longview City Council proposal that would Longview Head Start chance to expand many as 200 children from poor families.

Last week, a \$4 specifically for a Le Start building/social was tagged onto an bill by U.S. Rep. That bill has not y by President Bush.

McMichael told members that the Le district would donate land off of Young building.

"This would be upon HUDCO (the man Developer the city of Longview other entities from munity offering t sources to construct such a facility said.

HUDCO admin for Gregg, Harr Panola counties.

For years, I

Supreme Court backs Senate's lines

Longview o for state fic

UFA 000014946

TUESDAY, October 6, 1992, Lor

Longview Head Start

Council OKs drilling permits

As funding for drainage

needed drilling site requested
locations will be southeast of
age Road and north of the
r. Another company well will
r of Loop 281 and northeast
ad.

any will also be subject to a
ment that drillers leave the
cash bond to fix problems
I don't respond quickly

suggested the cash bond to
ent problems between the
industry and residents who
able drillers allow dust,
other problems to mar
is.

said he did not think the
a "panacea" to recent

seems me is that, in the
at I've been on the council,
weary very quickly of these
coming into this city, getting
nit and then totally ignoring
nd being totally irresponsi-

son said.
tion, city council decided to
assing the possible forma-
Community Development

propos.
L approached Tom Mc-
CO executive director,
and they, in turn, pre-
-Chapman, who as a
is House Appropriation
ad the pull to see that

4 officers 92 calls

e weekend, Longview
red 992 calls; respond-
alls for service and as-
5 miscellaneous calls,
tops and 113 officer-

s.
investigated 46 motor-
ents; 90 reported theft
ng eight cases of shop-
12 vehicle burglaries,
business burglaries in-
mber 22.

cases of criminal mis-
e alarms and 80 distur-
ere investigated. Forty-
nces were classified as

Advisory Board. The board would make
recommendations to council members
on where to allocate federal grant
money channeled through the city.

Councilman Mark Pruitt asked that
conversation about the board be post-
poned until a local minister could partic-
ipate in the discussion. The matter will
be placed on the city council's first No-
vember work session.

Council members approved four
other oil and gas drilling applications
including:

- A request from Amoco Production
Co. and Oxy USA for a natural gas well
located south of Chad Street and east
of LaFame Road, with access from
Payne Road.

- A request from Oxy USA for a nat-
ural gas well located east of Pine Tree
Road and north of Helene Lane, with
access from Juanita Street.

- A request from Oxy USA for a nat-
ural gas well located west of Kriss Drive
and north of Cheryl Street, with access
from Kriss Drive.

- A request from Oxy USA for a nat-
ural gas well located south of George
Richey Road and east of Fanton Road,
with access from George Richey Road
to Restoration Road.

The council also passed a number of
zoning requests based on recommen-
dations from the city's Planning and
Zoning Commission.

the \$400,000 grant made it into the
bill.

One very attractive feature of the
proposal presented by McMichael
was the inclusion of several social
service offices that provide assis-
tance to the same families that have
children in Head Start.

McClurg described the project as
a "once-in-a-lifetime chance."

"And we want it in Longview,"
added Ron McCutcheon, HUDCO
board president.

Derailment forces school to close

From 1-A

to any of the cars structurally."
Once the cars are righted and
placed back on the tracks, they
will be moved several miles out
of town and the contents will be
unloaded to new cars.

That process is scheduled to be-
gin this morning if the cleanup is
completed by then.

The cleanup involves emer-
gency crews from KCS and
Hulcher Emergency Services, a
company specializing in early re-
sponse to derailments involving
hazardous materials.

"We've got four side-boomed
tractors and a front end loader
from Hulcher," said Michael
Hahn, KCS vice president of
transportation, who was supervising
the emergency crews. "Every-
thing is going well."

Officials will not begin trying
to determine the cause of the de-
railment until later today. Hahn
said the track is "pretty well tore
up," and will not offer any clues
to the cause of the mishap until
the cars are removed and the
track segments can be inspected
in a lab.

He expects the tracks will re-
open today for more train traffic.

Fire trucks and ambulances
from Marshall, Karnack and
Waskom were on alert.

Crews stayed the full half-mile
distance from the wreckage in the
event that an explosion occurred.

Officials from KCS, Vista and
Hulcher said there was little dan-
ger of an explosion.

Traffic moves newly 2-way

From Staff Reports

Traffic moved slowly, but surely
Monday along the newly converted
two-way Whaley Street.

The street was re-opened Monday
morning after being closed over the
weekend as construction workers
finished changing the one-way
street into a two-way thoroughfare.

The conversion caused some traf-
fic problems, said Longview police
officer Lloyd Phillips.

"Traffic was stacking up, but it
was nothing drastic," said Phillips.

"Today, it was quite an experi-
ence watching everybody try to get

Longview final

From 1-A

Department is serving as technical
adviser for project specifications.

"I think we've got a top shot for
it," Rabicoff said. "We've got the in-
terstate coming through Longview
we're offering them a beautiful lot
(70 acres), and we're located right in
the middle of a lot of the lakes that
big bass come from."

Rabicoff said that about 20 full-
time state employees would staff the
center, along with those completing
internships. A Fishing Hall of Fame
and historical museum are expected
to be included in the project as well.

"It's something that we really
need," he said. "This would be the
first partnership between the city and
the state, and for all interested in
long-term gains in tourism
Longview is the place to put it."

In addition to aquariums and other
exhibits to provide a key teaching

THIS IS

VFA 000014947

NEWS MESSENGER

Vol. 116 No. 102

MARSHALL, TEXAS

1 Section 12 Pages 35¢

Chemical cars derail in Karnack

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POTENTIAL DANGER—A Texas Railroad Commission official inspects several Kansas City Southern rail tank cars which overturned in Kameck early Monday. Each of the seven cars which derailed contains 31,000 gallons of vinyl chloride, a highly flammable industrial chemical. Five of the seven cars overturned, but officials said there were no leaks reported. (Photo/Farnell)

COLUMN ONE

City meets on 'asbestos train'

WE ATTEMPTED

No leaks of flammable liquid are reported

JAMES OSBORNE
News Messenger

KARNACK — Lawmen and emergency officials sealed off a one-half mile area here today after several tank cars carrying a highly flammable chemical in a Kansas City Southern Railway train derailed near a school, a residential area, and Longhorn Army Ammunition Plant early today.

Authorities said no one was injured in the derailment but Karnaack schools were closed and city and school officials are taking precautions to insure no injuries or further accidents occur as a result of the mishap. No residents were asked to leave their homes this morning, but traffic has been restricted along streets highways in the

Harrison County Judge Rodney Gilstrap, the county's chief emergency officer, said the Harrison County Sheriff's Department and KCS officials have been monitoring the situation.

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KISD closes two nearby campuses

MICHAEL J. MICA
News Messenger

KARNACK — Students in Karnack public schools got an unexpected day off today when campuses were closed following a train derailment near the secondary campus.

Officials feared the early morning derailment, which took place about 400 yards to 500 yards northeast of the secondary campus, might have caused an extremely flammable substance, vinyl chloride, to leak from several tanker cars.

Not long after the detailment, officials from the Harrison County Sheriff's Office called Acting Superintendent Dr. Anita Walker and suggested schools be closed for the day.

See: SCHOOLS/2.

3

and were expected to have the derailment site cleaned by noon today.

"Four tank cars full of vinyl chloride derailed and are on their sides, according to Sheriff's department and railway officials," said Gilstrap. "One or two other cars are off the tracks, but they are upright. There are no leaks or discharge of the chemical from the overturned cars at the site."

Gilstrap said vinyl chloride is a highly flammable substance, according to railway officials.

"City and Karnack School

officials are taking no chances as a result of the derailment," said Gilstrap. "Residents of the area have been evacuated and school officials have cancelled school at least through today."

"Sheriff (Bill) Oldham notified me of the accident approximately between 3 a.m. and 4 a.m. today by car phone."

According to Gilstrap, the incident occurred a very short distance south of the west gate main entrance leading to the Longhorn Army Ammunition Plant where Texas 43 intersects with Texas 134.

The railway company has

sent in a special crew for train deraillments from their Corsicana facility," Gilstrap said. "The game plan is for the railway company to bring in a crane and lift the overturned tank cars onto flat bed trailers and move them to a deserted site and drain them of their highly flammable chemical."

KCS officials are also investigating the site to determine the cause of the derailment.

Gilstrap said railroad officials feared attempting to drain the tank cars on-site because of the nearby school, ammunition plant and residences.

Gilstrap said he would be the county official to contact the governor's office for additional assistance, such as activating the National Guard, if the situation warranted.

"Whenever there is a situation that could escalate into a major disaster that could exceed our local capabilities, I'm always notified," said Gilstrap. "Sheriff Oldham and his department and railway officials are handling the situation very well. We don't anticipate the situation becoming more serious than that which has already occurred."

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ISD closes

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HAEL J. MIGA
Messenger

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The sheriff's department rec-

See SCHOOLS/2

Schools

ommended we close schools, so we did," said KISD Board of Trustees President John Alford.

Walker was on the scene Monday morning to be on hand in the event that an evacuation of residents was ordered from the area. Reports stated that Karnack ISD would provide school buses to transport residents out of the area, if an evacuation was deemed necessary.

Walker received the call from the sheriff's office at 4:15 a.m., about 45 minutes after the derailment. She then called radio and television stations, asking them to include in their

coverage of the derailment an advisory for KISD students to stay home.

Walker also called secondary campus principal Vernora Marshall and elementary principal Cozetta Warren, requesting they contact teachers to advise them of the situation.

School administrative offices were also shut down for the day, and anyone calling the superintendent's office was greeted with a recording explaining the school closing.

Classes are scheduled to resume Tuesday morning, school officials said.

To: Vista Media Players

From: Kerry Gregg
Date: September 23, 1992

Interoffice
Communication

Subject: LCVCM CTIRP Drill

VISTA

Hi,

This is your instruction sheet for your part in tomorrow's CTIRP emergency drill. Your mission will be to play the media and harass the drill's key players. At approximately 8 a.m. tomorrow morning the following information will be handed to Mike Lunsford at the VCM plant and he will be asked to respond to this emergency. You need to put your calls in to Mike (318/494-5039), pretending to be reporters, immediately after he is given this information. I will arrange to have you alerted as soon as he is handed the information. As soon as you have completed your calls to Mike, conduct the same drill with Nancy Tower (318/494-5301) and Bob Miller (318/494-5353).

Pete, (318) 494-5063

The following is the information Lunsford will be given:

"A VCM tank car has derailed twenty miles south of Shreveport LA. The car derailed with a string of other cars. On derailling the car rolled down an embankment and a hissing sound was heard from the car and a white cloud is being released from the car with a faint sweet odor. Two other cars are leaking and their products are unknown at this time.

23,000
gallon

Just north of the derailment is a Girl Scout camp and camp is in session with approximately 200 campers present. Wind direction is from the south. Just east of the derailment is an interstate highway."

This is all the information Mike will be given before you make your call to him. Please coordinate your calls to provide for the maximum delay possible in Mike leaving for the scene of the derailment. MSR (CBS) should call first, then DLT (CNN), then KK (NPR). Ideally, as soon as one call is completed the next call should be coming in. After these initial calls Mike will not be reachable (one purpose of this drill is to show the need for cellular phones for Vista's CTIRP responders), you can then begin calling Tower and Miller. Be sure to set up callbacks so that Miller and Tower can update the "media".

Suggested questions:

VPA 000014950

Who, what, when, where, how, why?
What are the health effects of VCM?
How many people have been hurt?
Could it explode?

Is anyone in danger if it explodes?
Have we evacuated the Girl Scouts?
Why not?

What chemicals are in the other tank cars?
Whose fault is this?

How much VCM has leaked?

When can he get back to us with more information?

✓ Who else can we talk to for more information?

Call Tower & Miller for more info

Thurke
Ply

Mike
Shreveport
to talk to

10 as
part of
dr

make up
name

Thomas G. Grumbles

VISTA A

To K. Knapp

Date

FYI - Attached may
be useful for our
info sources.

Also - we still need
to talk about waste/
by-product Emergency
info

U

VPA 000014941