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Sent: 10/22/2010 7:42:42 AM
To: 'pac@cpuc.ca.gov' (pac@cpuc.ca.gov)
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Fw: San Bruno Media Update 10/22 7:00 a.m.

From: Romans, Kathleen
To: SB FAQ Key Messages Distribution List; SB MRRT; Peterson, Michael R (Corp Security); Foletta, Joseph; Simpson, Ashlie
Sent: Fri Oct 22 07:40:40 2010
Subject: San Bruno Media Update 10/22 7:00 a.m.

San Bruno Media Update

Friday, October 22, 2010

Updated 7:00 a.m.

Summary

The top national news headlines throughout Thursday and early Friday include a typhoon in Taiwan that trapped 400 people and U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates' ruling that only the secretaries of the Army, Navy and Air Force can discharge under "don't ask, don't tell". Specific to California, the Brown and Whitman race is getting tighter and the San Francisco Giants lost 4-2, and will travel to Philadelphia for games six and seven. Related to the San Bruno accident, more lawsuits have been filed against PG&E. Charges have also been filed against a woman who posed as a victim of the accident to receive aid. Authorities were suspicious when she provided an address that did not exist.

Developments to Date

- Six more lawsuits filed against PG&E
- Woman poses as victim of San Bruno accident to receive aid

Print Media Coverage

6:00 a.m. – 6:00 a.m.

Thursday, October 21, 2010 to Friday, October 22, 2010

San Mateo Daily Journal

Six More Lawsuits Hit PG&E

By Bill Silverfarb

October 21, 2010

Pacific Gas and Electric faces more lawsuits to be filed in San Mateo County Superior Court today alleging the utility company was negligent and liable for a natural gas pipeline explosion that left eight dead in San Bruno Sept. 9.

The Danko Law Firm will file the complaints on behalf of Glenview neighborhood residents Steve Hoff, Angie Williams, William and Joanne Healy, Rose Manuofetoa, Brianne Low and Epifania Balingit, Arnold DeLeon and Miguela DeLeon.

The firm expects to file at least a dozen more lawsuits against PG&E in the next couple of weeks, said Mike Danko, a San Mateo attorney.

PG&E was hit with several wrongful death lawsuits just yesterday filed by the law firm of Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy.

http://www.smdailyjournal.com/article_preview.php?id=144168&title=Six%20more%20l

San Bruno Patch

Another Set of Lawsuits Filed in Pipeline Explosion

By Martin Ricard

October 21, 2010

Two more families and four more people filed lawsuits today against PG&E, claiming the utility was negligent for the Sept. 9 gas pipeline explosion and should be held responsible for their injuries sustained in the fire.

The six separate suits filed in San Mateo County Superior Court are similar to the suits filed

Tuesday. But these accuse Pacific Gas & Electric Co. of negligently designing and operating Line 132, the pipeline that exploded near Earl Avenue and Glenview Drive, which resulted in injury. The lawsuits also claim the explosion caused a product liability issue, which means PG&E could be held responsible for damages if the pipeline was found to be defective regardless of any fault on their part.

<http://sanbruno.patch.com/articles/another-set-of-lawsuits-filed-in-pipeline-explosion>

San Bruno Patch

So What's With This Buyout Program?

By Martin Ricard

October 21, 2010

Ever since the Sept. 9 gas pipeline explosion, PG&E has been very generous to the residents in the Crestmoor neighborhood.

Credit cards, no-strings-attached checks. And now a buyout program.

The sentiment right now among many people, especially those who either lost their homes or whose homes were damaged, is that PG&E's offers won't mean much until the utility provides more information about whether the pipeline that exploded will get rebuilt.

<http://sanbruno.patch.com/articles/so-whats-with-this-buyout-program>

Wikinews

Electric Company Faces Lawsuits From Residents of California Neighborhood Destroyed by Explosion

By Wiki Staff

October 21, 2010

The Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) is facing several lawsuits, including one filed by residents of San Bruno, California after a gas line exploded in their neighborhood on September 10, completely destroying over 50 structures, 37 of them homes. In their lawsuit, residents claim that PG&E knew the pipeline was "defective" and was a "ticking time bomb". They further allege that the company was aware that the pipeline could fail, but did not act.

The lawsuit was filed by at least five families who resided in the Glenview neighborhood of San Bruno. The Danko firm who is representing the residents say they expect to file at least a dozen more lawsuits against the company alleging they were liable and responsible for the explosion and the damages that occurred as a result of it. "This wasn't an accident. This was a foreseeable consequence of ignoring safety measures," one attorney representing the families said. It has also been reported that several other wrongful death lawsuits have been filed against PG&E. Three people were killed in the explosion.

http://en.wikinews.org/wiki/Electric_company_faces_lawsuits_from_residents_of_Califor

San Jose Mercury News (via Associated Press)

Woman Charged for Posing as San Bruno Blast Victim

By Staff

October 21, 2010

San Mateo County prosecutors have charged another person with posing as a victim of the deadly San Bruno gas line explosion in order to get free aid.

The San Mateo County Times reports that 23-year-old Jacqueline Turner is scheduled to be arraigned on Nov. 4 on one count of burglary.

Authorities say the San Francisco resident went to a resource center four days after the Sept. 9 explosion to get benefits available to victims.

http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_16398610

Inside Bay Area

San Francisco woman charged in San Bruno Blast Scam

By Joshua Melvin

October 21, 2010

Criminal charges have been filed against a San Francisco woman accused of trying to steal aid intended for victims of the deadly natural gas pipeline explosion in San Bruno.

Jacqueline Turner, 23, walked into a resource center for victims just four days after the Sept. 9 explosion and told workers there she needed help, said Chief Deputy District Attorney Steve

Wagstaffe.

When asked what sort of assistance she required, Turner is said to have replied, "I need everything you got."

Workers at the center became suspicious when the woman gave them an address that did not exist. When filling out some forms, Turner also listed her real address, Wagstaffe said.

http://www.insidebayarea.com/news/ci_16391472

San Francisco Chronicle

San Bruno Fire Victims Benefit @ Molloy's Tavern, Colma, October 24

By John Maybury

October 20, 2010

Sunday, October 24 from 12 noon to 5 p.m. at Molloy's Tavern, 1655 Old Mission Road, Colma. To benefit the victims of the San Bruno natural gas explosion and fire. Please join us for a day of fun and a good cause. But do you really need an excuse to have fun, eat great chili, and listen to good music? Reserve your team booth now! 415-533-4643

http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/blogs/inpeninsulacoastside/detail?entry_id=75035

San Bruno Patch

Landmarks Along the Way

By Bardi Rosman Koodrin

October 21, 2010

San Bruno has a fresh, deeply carved scar we all must live with right now. The fire burned its own set of bright red tracks through the Crestmoor neighborhood.

It is painful to travel along this current city map. There may be acres of spaces between what once was there and what is now missing; yet these physical scars are temporary. The process of rebuilding has already begun. And so has the collective grieving.

San Bruno Patch Editor Martin Ricard has conducted a series of interviews with our

mayor, Jim Ruane, and City Manager Connie Jackson. In part two of The Official Response, Mayor Ruane talked about the emotional trauma that's affecting not just the people who lost their homes.

<http://sanbruno.patch.com/articles/landmarks-along-the-way>

WTMA

Biggest U.S. Industrial Accidents May be Waiting to Happen, Experts Say

By Staff

October 21, 2010

The explosion that leveled a San Bruno, California, neighborhood in September -- sending flames 300 feet into the air -- wasn't the first and likely will not be the last conflagration caused by a ruptured natural gas pipeline (in this case, one belonging to the Pacific Gas & Electric Company).

The age of a pipeline matters less than inspection and maintenance. So says Carl Weier, head of the Pipeline Safety Trust, a government-financed watchdog group. "Most of the pipelines in this country are 40 to 50 years old. If properly maintained, they don't present a danger." However, even a new pipeline, he says, will go to failure if not well inspected and maintained.

<http://www.wtma.com/rssItem.asp?feedid=118&itemid=29590002>

The Register-Guard

Gas Pipeline Safety Issues Resurface After California Tragedy

By Diane Dietz

September 26, 2010

After seven people and 37 houses went up in a fireball in a San Francisco suburb recently, Eugene resident Joan Furst began wondering about the 6-foot yellow warning post on the street corner near her house.

The unexplained appearance of the natural gas pipeline markers along Harlow Road several years ago made her uneasy at the time, she said. "That scared me more than anything." It took Pacific Gas and Electric more than 1½ hours shut off the valve feeding the San Bruno fire, according to preliminary reports.

<http://www.registerguard.com/csp/cms/sites/web/news/cityregion/25327952-41/pipeline-gas-natural-pipelines-lines.csp>

Star-Telegram

Report on Fort Worth Pipelines Spots Regulatory holes but also offers praise

By Barnett Shale

October 21, 2010

A report released Thursday on Fort Worth's growing natural gas pipeline system warned that regulatory loopholes could cause problems as companies build more pipelines in urban communities, but also commended state and city measures governing the lines.

Pipeline safety has gained more attention in recent weeks after a deadly pipeline blast last month in the San Francisco suburb of San Bruno, Calif., that killed eight people.

"Many of the gathering and transmission lines in Fort Worth are permitted to have higher pressures than the San Bruno line and are capable of generating greater potential impact zones upon rupture," Weimer said.

<http://www.star-telegram.com/2010/10/21/2567269/report-on-fort-worth-pipelines.html>

San Jose Mercury News

Gas Leak Prompts Evacuation of Gardner Elementary School

By Lisa Fernandez

October 21, 2010

Hundreds of students and staff members at San Jose's Gardner Academy and some nearby residents were ordered to evacuate the neighborhood Thursday morning after a two-inch gas line ruptured underground near the campus.

No one was injured, and the rupture was repaired by noon. Gardner will reopen this morning.

About 500 elementary students and staff, as well as residents of 15 homes, were

ordered to clear out for their own safety about 9:30 a.m. after someone smelled gas, fire Capt. Chuck Rangel said.

PG&E spokesman Matt Nauman said crews dug a hole underground at 722 Willis Ave., near West Virginia Street, where the leak was reported, and pinched it off shortly before noon.

http://www.mercurynews.com/crime-courts/ci_16397438

Broadcast Coverage

NOTE: These video clips are being captured electronically in real time. Cleaner and more accurate start/stop clips can be collected at a later date.

National Coverage (none)

Local Coverage Clip

KGET-TV (NBC) CH 17, Bakersfield, CA

10/21/2010, 11:00 - 11:35 PM KNTV-TV (NBC)

Coverage starts at :51

Clip

KGO-TV (ABC) CH 7, San Francisco, CA

10/21/2010, 5:00 - 5:30 PM

Coverage starts at :06, and ends early