

ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION, SPILLS, FIREWATER

CONTAINMENT NEWS



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# JULY 2015

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**Dr Paul Leinster**  
Chief Executive of the Environment Agency

*"Containment News is a great free resource, packed with the latest relevant news on environmental crimes, actions and solutions. Subscribe now and ensure you are kept up to date with all the important environmental issues."*

Andy Cummins  
Campaign Director Surfers Against Sewage



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**1.1 EDITOR'S COMMENT**

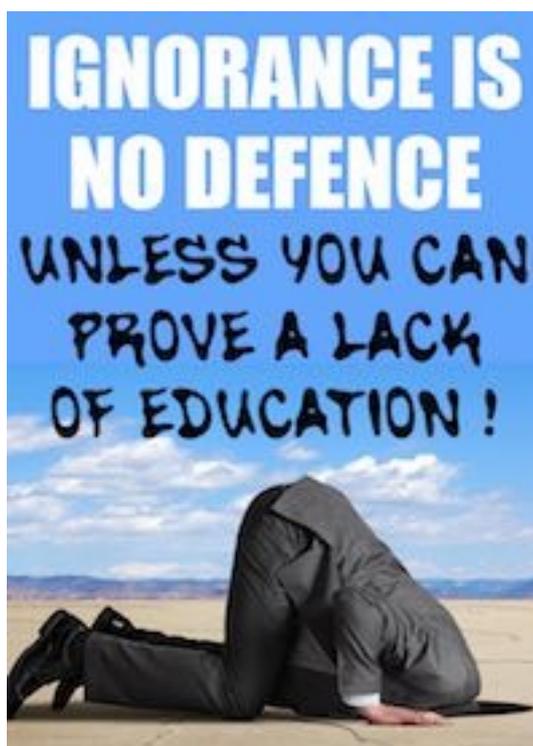
**1.2 UK POLLUTION NEWS**

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## **EDITOR'S COMMENT**



When driving near a school in wet conditions anyone with double digit braincells will not require flashing speed restriction signs to make them slow down, and the reason for caution will have nothing to do with the risk of a £100 fine. This is of course due to basic common sense and decades of graphic road safety campaigns.

Unfortunately the same level of educational campaigns have never been budgeted for when it comes to environmental pollution.

'Ignorance is no defence' is something often quoted in relation to pollution, however, when successive governments seem to be increasingly distancing themselves from laying down specific regulations and guidelines for industry it's a defence that will undoubtedly carry some credibility. This

is especially true when the government's own website now states "the Environment Agency no longer provides 'good practice' guidance". The PPGs (Pollution Prevention Guidelines) were by no means perfect but they were a good solid foundation for industry to work from and periodic consultations kept them current and relevant.

The government seems to be hoping that conscientious companies will spontaneously band together for the greater good to write their own set of guidelines in a form of unofficial self regulation. Whilst there is no doubt that industry is best placed to know, based on first hand experience how to protect itself from spills and firewater incidents it seems unlikely that corporations will suddenly switch to an altruistic commune mentality. Without any concerted effort by the government and her environment agencies to coordinate or at the very least initiate consultation on good practice it seems that it will require a mainland spill on the scale of Buncefield before this issue is given the priority that it deserves.

My personal conspiracy theory is that the authorities are frightened of stipulating *specific* requirements for industry to follow because in the event of an incident a business that could prove that it had ticked every required box would then be virtually bullet-proof from prosecution and could even hold the government responsible for any shortfall in insurance payout or lost production.

Maybe this is driven by the nightmare scenario of yet another new claims industry springing up, ‘have you had a spill or firewater incident that wasn’t your fault, have you been mis-sold site containment products by the government’.

I’ve been told by numerous sites that an inspection from one of the environment agencies will highlight areas of concern without giving any clear advice on exactly what action they should take. I understand that for many reasons that government agencies cannot recommend specific companies or products, but leaving industry to read between the lines and rely on Google to source containment solutions is far too hit and miss. This task is made even more daunting because containment options encompass everything from a glorified draft excluder to place around a drain, through to full site bunding and automated in-drain locking valves.

Imagine taking your car in for an MOT and being told that you need to ‘do something’ because your vehicle is not safe without being given specific details about what repairs need to be carried out? The essential validity of ‘ignorance is no defence’ is being severely diluted by a lack of guidance, exacerbated by budgetary costs which are drastically reducing the vital educational role of the environment agencies. This lack of clarity is dangerous and irresponsible, especially in view of recent comments by Court of Appeal judges warning that in the “worst cases fines could be in excess of £100 million/100% of companies’ pre-tax profit”.

**Phil Bremner**

Editor: Containment News, Flood News, Wireless eNews & LPRAs eNews

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# UK NEWS



## **Persistent Environmental Offenders Should Expect 'Substantial' Fines Says Judge**

Companies that persistently breach environmental regulations should expect a “substantial increase” in fines levied for their second and subsequent offences, judges in the Court of Appeal have warned. Mr Justice Mitting on behalf of the three judges said “to bring the message home to the directors and shareholders of organisations which have offended negligently once or more than once before, a substantial increase in the level of fines, sufficient to have a material impact on the finances of the company as a whole, will ordinarily be appropriate. This may therefore result in fines measured in millions of pounds,” he said. The judge said that fines

equal to “up to 100%” of a company’s pre-tax net profit would be appropriate in the very worst cases, “even if this results in fines in excess of £100 million” ...

[www.out-law.com](http://www.out-law.com)

## **Thames Water Brook Sewage £250,000 Fine Deemed 'Lenient'**

A £250,000 fine imposed on Thames Water after raw sewage was pumped into a rural brook was “lenient”, a court of appeal judge has ruled. Chase Brook, near Newbury, Berkshire was polluted by a sewage leak which continued for a week in September 2012. A judge at the Court of Appeal ruled the fine imposed in August 2014, which included a further £7,000 in costs, could easily have been higher. Thames Water said it “very much regretted” the damage caused ...

[www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)

## **Chemical Giant Fined £195K For Toxic Spill**

Runcorn chemical giant Ineos ChlorVinyls Ltd has been fined £166,650 and ordered to pay £28,811.78 costs after admitting releasing caustic soda into the Manchester Ship Canal. The company, which has a chemical plant in Weston Point, was sentenced at Chester Crown Court following a prosecution by the Environment Agency. The case follows an incident on January 17, 2012, when operatives were loading sodium hydroxide (caustic soda) onto a ship berthed in the Manchester Ship Canal ...

[www.runcornandwidnesworld.co.uk](http://www.runcornandwidnesworld.co.uk)

### **SEPA Consultation On New Regulatory Charging Scheme**

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) has launched a consultation on proposed changes to the regulatory charging scheme covering annual licence costs and application fees.

***The consultation*** follows extensive engagement with licence holders, the Scottish Government and wider stakeholders, and outlines proposals for a new Environmental Regulation (Scotland) Charging Scheme, which if approved by Scottish Ministers is expected to come into effect on 1 April 2016. The consultation aims to replace five of the existing charging schemes covering Waste, Pollution Prevention and Control, Radioactive Substances; Water discharges and Water abstractions with a single system of annual charges ...

[www.sepa.org.uk](http://www.sepa.org.uk)

### **Large Waste Companies To Face Higher Fines For Pollution**

Large waste firms which commit pollution offences have been warned that they could be hit by much higher fines in future which are proportionate to the size of their businesses under new sentencing guidelines. The warning from the Environment Agency comes after the Court of Appeal upheld a £250,000 fine for Thames Water Utilities Ltd for polluting a nature reserve. "This should in general see higher fines for pollution offences in the waste and other sectors as the fine starting points and ranges are higher than in previous guidelines. "I think there been frustration amongst legitimate operators that the companies have been breaking the law and due to the low fines effectively getting away with it, hopefully that will happen less now." ...

[www.letsrecycle.com](http://www.letsrecycle.com)

### **Investigation Identifies Homes Pumping Toilet Waste Into River Wandle**

Toilets, baths, washing machines and sinks no longer empty into the River Wandle after 15 months of hard graft by Thames Water and the Environment Agency. In 2014 extensive detective work began in the area after dirty water, which should have gone into sewer pipes and the local treatment works, was found to be running into drains meant only for surface water and then out into the Wandle ...

[www.wimbledonguardian.co.uk](http://www.wimbledonguardian.co.uk)

### **Somerset Council Displays Beach Warning Signs Over Water Quality**

West Somerset Council, in partnership with Minehead Town Council, Old Cleeve Parish Council and Dunster Beach Holidays, has started to display warning signs on the beaches at Minehead, Blue Anchor and Dunster to advise bathers when water quality is expected to be reduced. People can use the information to decide whether or not to go in the water. The Environment Agency notifies partners at the relevant beaches to put up a temporary beach sign advising against swimming and paddling when water quality is likely to be reduced due to short term pollution ...

[www.westerndailypress.co.uk](http://www.westerndailypress.co.uk)



### **One In Four Of Scotland's Beaches Fail Safety Standards For Pollution**

**One in four of Scotland's beaches are in a "poor" state because of toxic contamination from sewage and animal waste, according to an analysis by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (Sepa). The Scottish Government's pollution watchdog has given 21 bathing waters all around the coast a rock-bottom rating under tough new European safety standards. This means that bacteria and viruses in the water could pose serious risks to the health of paddlers, swimmers and surfers this summer ...**

**[www.heraldscotland.com](http://www.heraldscotland.com)**

### **Clean-Up Operation Under Way After 'Deliberate' Canal Fuel Spill**

**A massive fuel spill at a Northamptonshire marina has now been contained by the Environment Agency and the clean-up operation has started. Ten people were evacuated and assessed by paramedics after thousands of litres of fuel leaked into Grand Union Canal at Gayton Marina. Northamptonshire Police have launched an investigation and have described it as a "criminal act" ...**

**[www.northamptonchron.co.uk](http://www.northamptonchron.co.uk)**

### **Compensation Sought After "Devastating" Fertiliser Pollution Fish Kill**

**Fish Legal has sent a 'letter before action' to a farmer's insurers claiming compensation for its member club Grantham Angling Association (GAA). The claim relates to the farmer polluting the river Witham near Grantham in April 2012 with approximately 6,000 litres of liquid fertiliser, killing at least a thousand fish. The Environment Agency (EA) said that the impact would have been significantly reduced if the polluting farmer, Robert C Grindal t/a C J Grindal had followed EA telephone advice to block off the receiving watercourse ...**

**[www.fishlegal.net](http://www.fishlegal.net)**

### **Victory For Local Residents Over Trevone Sewage Row**

**South West Water has abandoned its bid to shorten a sewage outfall pipe at Trevone, near Padstow. Local residents, who have fought a long campaign against the proposal, say they are delighted. The water company had applied to the Environment Agency to replace a Victorian-era cast iron pipe with a much shorter pipe at Rocky Beach. Residents feared the proposal would increase the frequency of raw sewage spilling onto the beach ...**

**[www.cornishguardian.co.uk](http://www.cornishguardian.co.uk)**

### **South West Water Admit Sewage Breaches**

South West Water (SWW) have admitted breaking environmental controls at a waste plant where a broken screening device caused a series of break downs.

The treatment plant at Dunkeswell, near Honiton, was already scheduled for improvement works when discharges breached agreed limits during the summer of 2013. The Environment Agency calculated there had been 13 occasions when waste with too much sludge residue entered the stream which runs past the plant, although SWW reckoned there were only five. The company admitted breaching the agreed discharge limits ...

[www.exeterexpressandecho.co.uk](http://www.exeterexpressandecho.co.uk)

### **Second Oil Spill In Bottesford Beck In A Year**

An investigation has been launched by the Environment Agency after a major oil spill in the Bottesford Beck for the second time this year. The slick of oil affected more than two kilometres of the Beck, which is Scunthorpe's main drain. The Environment Agency said it believes it has identified the source of the leak, but would not confirm who was responsible ...

[www.scunthorpetelegraph.co.uk](http://www.scunthorpetelegraph.co.uk)

### **Come And Meet The Sponsors Of Containment News**

Containment News and Flood News sponsors Radio Data Networks (RDN) Managing Director Brian Back will be presenting at the 'Practical Applications of Remote Sensing for Asset Management' event on the 14th July, in Wakefield. For further information please contact RDN on Tel: +44 (0)1279 600 440

### **Somerset LandFill Fire**

The Dimmer landfill site, which has been on fire, is expected to be extinguished in early July. Meetings of the multi-agency response team including Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service, Avon and Somerset Police, the Environment Agency, the Somerset Waste Partnership, Public Health England and local authorities have been meeting with the Food Standards Agency to monitor impact on local farmland ...

[www.westerngazette.co.uk](http://www.westerngazette.co.uk)

### **Birth Control In Drinking Water**

A recent report from the U.S. Geological Survey found that birth-control hormones excreted by women, flushed into waterways and eventually into drinking water can also impact fish fertility up to three generations after exposure, raising questions about their effects on humans, who are consuming the drugs without even knowing it in each glass of water they drink ...

[www.ncregister.com](http://www.ncregister.com)

### **Scottish Landfill Tax Contaminated Soils Consultation**

A Scottish Landfill Tax contaminated soils consultation is now open until 15 July 2015. This is aimed at landfill operators and the wider waste sector, including waste management companies, local authorities, waste producers, planners, developers and the construction industry. The consultation seeks views on two

options for determining the correct rate of Scottish Landfill Tax chargeable on contaminated soils ...

[www.revenue.scot](http://www.revenue.scot)

### [Inside The Scrapyard Inferno At Blackpole Metals](#)

These dramatic pictures show the moment an accidental spark caused a devastating fire in a Worcester scrap yard. But fire bosses said it could have been much worse if not for the owner of Blackpole Metals who kept a well ordered yard and CCTV which allowed fire investigators to quickly identify the cause of the blaze. The devastating fire began by accident after a smouldering spark from metal cutting ignited a huge blaze which destroyed 60 vehicles and other machinery. The spark created a smouldering fire which did not ignite until hours later when staff were off site. The Environment Agency provided specialist support to the fire service's environmental protection unit preventing foam and water runoff from entering the nearby Barbourne Brook ...

[www.worcesternews.co.uk](http://www.worcesternews.co.uk)



### [Asda Milk Lorry Fire Raises River Pollution Fears](#)

A lorry carrying milk has been destroyed by fire at a Dorset supermarket, raising fears a nearby river will be polluted.

Dorset Fire and Rescue said six appliances and an environmental support unit were sent to tackle the blaze at Asda in Gillingham.

But in a bid to prevent the run-off of milk, oil and water escaping from the scene of the fire and into the river. The

Environment Agency placed absorbent pads around the river. They have since confirmed

that water analysis showed there had been no significant impact on the river ...

[www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk) [www.westerngazette.co.uk](http://www.westerngazette.co.uk)

### [Chemical Spill At Kidderminster Industrial Estate](#)

Two men were injured and around 30 people evacuated from a Kidderminster factory following a chemical spillage. Firefighters were called to Hard Anodising Ltd, in Firs Industrial Estate, Kidderminster where a plastic tank carrying around 1,000 litres of nitric acid split. The 30 employees who were in the factory at the time were evacuated for around two hours as a precaution while the spillage was dealt with. Staff at neighbouring businesses were also ordered to stay indoors while the incident was ongoing while police placed a 50 metre cordon around the area to prevent access to the site ...

[www.kidderminstershuttle.co.uk](http://www.kidderminstershuttle.co.uk)

### **4000 Bales Alight At Mid UK Recycling**

Around 75 firefighters from Lincolnshire Fire & Rescue Service are tackling a fire involving 4,000 bales of mixed household waste and shredded carpets at Mid UK Recycling's Ancaster waste site. Fires at waste sites are commonplace, with figures released in 2013 showing that between 2001 and 2012, the average rate of fires at waste and recycling works came in at just under one per day. In an attempt to prevent fires from occurring, the Waste Industry Safety and Health (WISH) Forum has issued new guidance to help waste site operators reduce fire risk ...

[www.resource.co](http://www.resource.co)

### **Devon River Runs Red After Large Spill Of Stolen Diesel**

Fish have been poisoned after thieves allowed almost 2,000 litres of red diesel to leak into a Devon river. The Environment Agency has appealed for information after 1,900 litres of the fuel entered the river Axe, east of Axminster. Thieves stole fuel from a farm and left the remainder of the tank to run out, polluting the Axe ...

[www.westernmorningnews.co.uk](http://www.westernmorningnews.co.uk)

### **Dozen People Taken Ill After Suspected Chemical Leak In Colchester**

A diesel spill in a river was not the cause of a chemical incident in Colchester, according to the Environment Agency. A business park was evacuated and a dozen people were taken ill after a suspected chemical leak in Colchester. Ten people received medical treatment from the ambulance service following a suspected chemical leak near Colchester's Royal Mail depot ...

[www.gazette-news.co.uk](http://www.gazette-news.co.uk)

### **Exposed: 28 Northern Ireland Farmers Polluting Local Rivers**

The number of farmers convicted of polluting rivers in the Mid Ulster District has risen by almost 200 percent in the past year. The sharp rise in prosecutions by the Northern Ireland Environmental Agency suggests that Tyrone's rivers, which were once renowned for their natural beauty and stocked with trout, sticklebacks, and roach, as well as migrating salmon and eels, are being poisoned at an unprecedented scale. The latest figures from the Department of the Environment reveal that the East and South Tyrone river system is in crisis with some 28 farmers convicted for pollution offences in the last three years, by far the highest number for any district in Northern Ireland ...

[www.tyronetimes.co.uk](http://www.tyronetimes.co.uk)

### **Sewage Dumped Into Essex Ditch**

An investigation is under way after a tanker full of sewage dumped its load in to a Canvey dyke. Residents in Village Hall Close, Canvey, were woken up after hearing the tanker manoeuvring in their normally quiet cul-de-sac. The vehicle dumped liquid waste into the dyke, which is frequently used by children as a play area. The Environment Agency has promised to investigate and prosecute those responsible ....

[www.echo-news.co.uk](http://www.echo-news.co.uk)

### Acid Leak At Thermo Fisher Scientific

Emergency services attended Thermo Fisher Scientific's Bishop Meadow Road site after an acid leak. It's understood that this morning around 1,000 litres of hydrochloric acid had leaked at the pharmaceutical firm. Ambulances, the fire service and police attended the incident. "Our team will conduct a careful assessment of this issue to determine the spill's cause and adjust procedures if necessary to ensure the utmost safety of our personnel, the environment and surrounding areas." ...

[www.loughboroughecho.net](http://www.loughboroughecho.net)

### Land Filled With Pesticides And Asbestos Earmarked For Housing

Decontamination of land filled with pesticides, asbestos and lagoons of effluence could get the go-ahead, subjecting residents in Cranleigh to 70 lorry movements per day, potentially for more than five years. Cranleigh Brick and Tile Works, formerly known as Baynards, is situated in woodland around 3km south east of Cranleigh, in Knowle Lane, and the work is deemed 'urgent' due to health risks ...

[www.getsurrey.co.uk](http://www.getsurrey.co.uk)



The MUST attend event for professionals involved in Flood Prevention, Management and Recovery is back on the 14th & 15th October at ExCeL London!

This Flood Expo promises to be even bigger and better than last years with brand new exhibitors, speakers, demonstrations, workshops and debates. "Due to the success of the 2014 event the 2015 Flood Expo is set to double in size with more live demo's and exciting features. Feedback has been considered and changes are being made to ensure that the 2015 event will provide the perfect platform to tackle the global problem of flooding." Jon Greenslade Event Director. Save the dates in your diary and secure your FREE Ticket. Flood News is proud to be a media partner again for 2015. Early registration is now open at [www.flooddefenceexpo.co.uk](http://www.flooddefenceexpo.co.uk) *Containment News and Flood News' sponsor RDN (Radio Data Networks) will also be exhibiting at the event again this year.*

### Forthcoming SWIG Workshop Programmes



SWIG (Sensors for Water Interest Group) continue to organise workshop programmes on a wide variety of subjects - the next events will be : 23-24 Sept 2015: Sensing in Water 2 day Conference & Exhibition, Nottingham Belfry.

Nov 2015: Innovation brokerage workshop, details TBC. All workshops are open to members and non-members. For further details and to register please see [www.swig.org.uk](http://www.swig.org.uk) or contact [rosa.richards@swig.org.uk](mailto:rosa.richards@swig.org.uk) or call 01934 830658  
[www.swig.org.uk](http://www.swig.org.uk)

## Forthcoming Future Water Association Events



The Future Water Association (formerly known as the Society of British Water and Waste Water Industries (SBWWI) has a vision to shape the future of water. The Association is a not for profit organisation governed by a Management Committee made up by members, all of whom have years of experience within the water sector. For details of future events please click [HERE](#) or contact them on +44 (0) 1926 513771/4 or Email [admin@futurewaterassociation.com](mailto:admin@futurewaterassociation.com)  
[www.sbwwi.co.uk](http://www.sbwwi.co.uk)



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# WORLD NEWS

## INDIA: 80% Of India's Water Is Contaminated By Sewage

The Municipal Corporation of Gurgaon recently admitted before the National Green Tribunal that untreated sewage from the city mixes with treated wastewater in the drains into the Yamuna. The putrid river that flows through New Delhi is only one of the many severely polluted surface water bodies in the country. Government agencies estimate that as much of 80% of India's surface water is contaminated and most of it comes from sewage ...

[www.scroll.in](http://www.scroll.in)

## CHINA: Nearly Two-Thirds Of Water Is Graded Unfit For Human Contact

In China, nearly two-thirds of groundwater, the worst offender, and one-third of surface water were graded as unfit for direct human contact in 2014, the Chinese Ministry of Environmental Protection said in a report. What's more, less than 4 percent of the nearly 1,000 surface water sites monitored by the ministry met the highest standard in 2014, Reuters reported ...

[www.ibtimes.com](http://www.ibtimes.com)

## EUROPE: Europe's Seas Are 'Dirty And Dying'

Overfishing and marine pollution are threatening hundreds of species and destroying coastal wetlands, according to the first comprehensive

assessment of the state of Europe's seas. Shark populations in the Mediterranean, including the hammerhead, blue and thresher, have declined by more than 96 per cent. European eel numbers have fallen by a similar proportion and oyster populations have collapsed around Britain's coast. The European sturgeon is now so rare that it breeds on a single river in France ...  
[www.thetimes.co.uk](http://www.thetimes.co.uk)

### **WORLD: 13 Of The World's 20 Most Polluted Cities Are In India**

On this year's World Environment Day, let's have a look at where India stands in the list of most polluted places. As many as 13 Indian cities, including national capital Delhi, are among the top 20 most polluted ones across the globe ...  
[www.ibtimes.co.in](http://www.ibtimes.co.in)

### **INDIA: Polluted Kali River Can't Sustain Life Anymore**

In a recent survey conducted by the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board (UPPCB) on the water samples collected from Meerut's Kali river, it has been revealed that the river water is not suitable for sustenance of aquatic life. The Kali river has recorded 2,24,267 MPN (most probable number)/100 ml coliform organism - 45 times the tolerance limit and among the highest in the state. The river has also fared quite low in terms of dissolved oxygen and biochemical oxygen demand, both of which are essential for sustaining organic life in a water body ...  
[www.ny000z.com](http://www.ny000z.com)

### **INDIA: 'Industries Are Under 24/7 Pollution Watch'**

Last year, MoEF had decided to set up the 24X7 pollution monitoring system in critical polluting industries, but it is only now that the system has become fully operational. Mr. Javadekar said that sensors tracking pollution levels of effluents discharged and polluted air released from the chimneys of factories were now in place in 920 industries, from which the ministry was tracking data on a minute-by-minute basis ...  
[www.thehindu.com](http://www.thehindu.com)

### **River Pollution Unites Israelis, Jordanians, Palestinians**

A joint Israeli, Palestinian, Jordanian initiative to save the Jordan River and upgrade the area of the Jordan River Valley on both sides of the river is unveiled. The polluted and trickling Jordan River might once again be "deep and wide" as well as clean by 2025, if the joint efforts of Israelis, Palestinians, and Jordanians bear fruit ...  
[www.jpost.com](http://www.jpost.com)

### **INDIA: The Yamuna River Is Slowly Dying**

The Yamuna river, along whose stretch the capital was founded, has become clogged with filth and pollution, and is slowly dying. The black, stinking water that flows in the Yamuna is uninviting and ominous. The pollution figures show that the Yamuna is no better than a drain. Despite thousands of crores spent on various projects to clean the river, the Yamuna, over the years, has just become more and more polluted ...

[www.hindustantimes.com](http://www.hindustantimes.com)

### **VIETNAM: Villagers Blame Polluted River For Cancer Deaths**

Black-as-coal and smelling of something rank, the Nhue river snakes its way through the middle of Van Hoang Commune, Phu Xuyen District in Ha Noi. The polluted river is likely more than just an eyesore. For years, villagers in the area blamed the river for the high incidence of cancer in their neighbourhoods ...

[www.vietnamnews.vn](http://www.vietnamnews.vn)

### **USA: Drinking Water Contaminated By Chemical Plant Fire**

Thousands of Adams County residents on Tuesday remained under mandatory water restrictions one day after a fire destroyed a fertilizer plant and led to the contamination of one of the main water sources in the region. Officials are closely monitoring another tributary after they found traces of herbicides, pesticides and other substances consistent with possible contamination ...

[www.pennlive.com](http://www.pennlive.com)

### **CHINA: Over 8000 People Arrested For Environmental Crimes Last Year**

More than 8,000 people were arrested in China for violating environmental laws last year, in what officials said was a sign of the country's determination to enforce its laws more strictly, in the face of grave pollution. The announcement comes amid growing public concern about environmental pollution in China ...

[www.ibtimes.com](http://www.ibtimes.com)

### **INDIA: Fire Erupts From Polluted Froth River**

Mohamed Attaulla Khan won't forget the night the lake he used to fish on as a boy caught fire. The pollution in Bellandur Lake was well-known: Every summer for more than a decade, a white froth as thick as shaving cream had carpeted the water, a chemical reaction caused by untreated waste. But standing on a bridge one evening last month, Khan, a 56-year-old high school principal, saw small orange flames flickering at the lake's surface amid the toxic suds ...

[www.latimes.com](http://www.latimes.com)

### **USA: Washington DC's Polluted Rivers Getting A Green Makeover**

Last month, D.C. Water, Washington's main water utility, announced a grand plan: Instead of creating massive tunnels to catch sewage overflow beneath the city's Potomac River and Rock Creek, they'll install green infrastructure. Essentially, this means making impermeable surfaces naturally absorptive, catching stormwater where it falls instead of directing it into pipes ...

[www.citylab.com](http://www.citylab.com)

### **INDIA: Mumbai's Dahisar River Highly Polluted**

Former Mumbai Mayor and Shiv Sena corporator Shubha Raul has got the samples of water flowing in 11km Dahisar River tested. The test results have found a glut of pollutants in it besides also giving out a sewage odor. Based on these result findings she plans to organize a meeting with environmentalists and scientists to see how the river can be revived ...

[www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com](http://www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com)

### USA: New York Confronts Waterways Polluted Past

It's known as a CSO or combined sewer overflow, outfall. In about half of New York City the sewer system combines wastewater from toilets and drains and rainwater into the same pipe, and treats it all at sewage plants. Those plants have a limit to their capacity. If it rains hard or heavy, the system avoids sewage backups by flushing the volume it can't handle into the city's waterways. And so New York City releases some 27 billion gallons of untreated wastewater each year into places like Flushing Bay ...

[www.citylimits.org](http://www.citylimits.org)

## IT'S NOT ALL BAD NEWS :-)

### Tidal Thames Gets Go Ahead

The Thames Anglers Conservancy, Angling Trust, The Salmon and Trout Association joined environmental groups and charities representing over 5 million people who have been campaigning for a cleaner Thames in London in welcoming the decision of the government to go ahead with the long awaited and much needed Thames Tideway Tunnel ...

[www.rivertac.org](http://www.rivertac.org)

### Salmon Spotted In Yorkshire River After 150 Years

Salmon spotted in a Yorkshire river after nearly 150 years could signal the success of engineering work undertaken to restore the polluted river, according to the Environmental Agency. The juvenile 14cm (5.5 inch) salmon was found in the River Dearne, a tributary of the River Don, is evidence of fish spawning in the waters since mid-19th century when industrialisation first took its toll ...

[www.ibtimes.co.uk](http://www.ibtimes.co.uk)

### Lampreys Return To Spawn In River Wear

Experts have welcomed the return of a rare fish to the River Wear as a sign that water quality is improving. The Environment Agency said lampreys spawning is a good sign that work to improve the waterways is succeeding. Twenty adult sea lampreys have been spotted in the Wear while searches are under way in North Yorkshire on the Ouse, Wharfe, Swale, Nidd and Ure. Fisheries officer Paul Frear said lampreys will only nest where the water quality is good ...

[www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)

### SAS Launches Improved Safer Seas Service App

Environmental campaign group has launched a new app to provide real-time water quality alerts to sea users in England and Wales. Surfers Against Sewage has launched a newly improved Safer Seas Service app to coincide with the start of the bathing season. The app provides information on water quality

in real-time at 113 beaches in the South West and 330 beaches around England and Wales ...

[www.westernmorningnews.co.uk](http://www.westernmorningnews.co.uk)

### How SEPA Is Tackling Wicked Problems

Not all problems are created equal, and solving them can often require a new way of thinking. Here we look at how SEPA is tackling some of the 'wicked problems' that are facing us in today's world ...

[www.sepaview.com](http://www.sepaview.com)

**PLEASE REMEMBER** - *In the vast majority of cases the fines that appear in the press and in Containment News do NOT include the remediation costs, which usually dwarf the size of the court cost and fine. For example in April 2010 a UK water company was fined £15k for polluting a local river, however the true costs were far greater; tankering away the spilt chemical £32,600, Plugging the leak £8,300, fish surveys £26,000, Installing new equipment to detect a leak £60,000, Charge for EA officers attending £2,271\*, restocking the stretch of river £63,500. When added to the fine and prosecution costs the incident cost £211,164. (\*this figure can be much higher, in May 2010 a fire at a chemical factory in Huddersfield was hit with a bill for £300,000 from the Environment Agency and HSE for their incident investigation costs). In most cases standard liability insurance will not cover this. Please check with your insurance company. The above figures do not include lost production costs or the damage to a company's reputation and share price, in many cases suppliers and customers have a tendency to distance themselves from a company under investigation. To read a Green Paper and find out more about the true cost of a pollution incident please click [HERE](#) to discuss arranging a no obligation site safety survey please call 0800 731 9313*

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### ENVIRONMENTAL INNOVATIONS LIMITED

Environmental Innovations - designers, manufacturers and installers of simple yet incredibly effective fully-automated in-drain pollution containment systems, uniquely combating spills, firewater and flooding. By blocking the outflow from your site and transforming your existing drainage system into a capacious containment vessel, companies now have an effective alternative to expensive whole site bunding, and a solution to incidents where a spill-kit is woefully inadequate. With Polluter Pays Principles being mercilessly enforced by Government agencies and courts, no company can afford to be without these state of the art 24 hour auto-containment systems which

seamlessly integrates wirelessly with your existing equipment such as fire alarms etc.

[www.environmental-innovations.biz](http://www.environmental-innovations.biz)

## **RADIO DATA NETWORKS LIMITED**

Radio Data Networks is a company dedicated to the remote monitoring of assets and infrastructure using wireless technology. Our key staff have served the Industrial, Commercial, Transport and Utility Sectors for almost 30-years helping to deliver some of Europe's largest and more challenging wireless monitoring projects. Our flagship BDT Blocked Sewer, Blocked Drain and CSO monitoring technology, which recently won the SBWWI Water Dragon Innovation Award, is widely deployed and everyday helps to keep Europe's inland waterways and beaches clean. We also supply radio telemetry links for applications such as oil interceptor monitoring, pump control, reservoir, tank and remote alarm status. These can also be used for asset security applications such gate as reservoir hatch and tank security.

[www.radio-data-networks.com](http://www.radio-data-networks.com)

## **USEFUL DOWNLOADS**

### **THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY HAS MOVED IT'S ON-LINE CONTENT TO GOV.UK.**

A customised update service is available from [GOV.UK](http://GOV.UK) You are able to select the publication type, such as, consultations, guidance, statistics; topic; frequency; and the government departments that you are interested in.

You can change your selection and unsubscribe at any time.

If you would like to try this service, go to the GOV.UK publications page <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications>

1. On the left hand side of the page, pick the type of publications you are interested in (e.g. open consultations), Topic (e.g. Environment), etc.
2. Click 'refresh results' underneath the filter selection
3. Click the 'sign up for GOV.UK updates' link provided. This will use the filters that you have set.
4. Click email or feed alongside 'get updates to this list' and follow the instructions.

If you are interested in changes to legislation, this information will continue to be available from [www.legislation.gov.uk](http://www.legislation.gov.uk) The 'advanced search' function allows users to search for and view new legislation by topic and part of the UK. You can also keep updated on the development of new

legislation through GOV.UK email and feed alerts by selecting to receive relevant consultation and announcement updates. These services are not operated by the Environment Agency; both websites include contact details for queries and feedback.

### *Check The Quality Of Beach & Bathing Water in Your Area*

*Find out how clean the water is on beaches and in other bathing areas in England, and if there is a problem with pollution. You can find out about beach and bathing water in England - Northern Ireland - Scotland or Wales*  
[www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

### *EA Publishes Waste Industry Guidance*

*The Environment Agency (EA) has published its long-awaited briefing note for the waste industry on separate collections, nine days before the regulations kick in. The information applies to public and private waste collectors from 1 January. Although the Environmental Services Association (ESA) welcomed the publication, it said more details could have been given on business waste collections. Guidance on the EA website lists the four core materials specified under EU regulations: paper, plastic, metal and glass. It said: “This means collecting these four wastes separately from each other and from other wastes. This applies to commercial (trade), industrial and household waste.” ...*  
[www.mrw.co.uk](http://www.mrw.co.uk)

### *New Place To Find Good Practice Oil Info*

*The Oil Care Campaign (OCC), a partnership between the UK environment agencies, trade, professional bodies and industry, has launched a new website ‘[www.oilcare.org.uk](http://www.oilcare.org.uk)’. As the public face of the OCC the site aims help the public and businesses find the information they need; to raise environmental awareness relating to oil, to help people look after their oil, to inform the public and businesses about how to avoid causing oil pollution incidents and to increase used oil recovery ...*  
[www.oilcare.org.uk](http://www.oilcare.org.uk)

### *New Fire Guidance Publications*

*A handbook co-produced by the Environment Agency and DCLG discussing all aspects of the fire and rescue services' environmental impact. The parent document to the ‘environmental protection’ guidance, the handbook includes corporate guidance for organisational effectiveness. Guidance relating to the protection of the environment during the course of firefighting, rescuing or managing hazardous materials. You might also find the Draft Fire Control Guidance Consultation Draft 27:6:2014 of interest - available HERE*  
[www.ukfrs.com](http://www.ukfrs.com)

### *CIRIA Containment systems for the prevention of pollution (C736)*

*This guidance has been developed to assist owners and operators of industrial and commercial facilities storing substances (inventories) that may be hazardous to the environment. The original CIRIA R164 Design of containment systems for the*

*prevention of water pollution from industrial incidents(Mason et al, 1997) was written primarily for new construction. However, many of the principles have been applied to good effect on existing sites. The guide has been revised and updated to reflect changes in legislation, construction design and practice and lessons learned from recent incidents (particularly Buncefield), near misses and inspections. Analysis of this and other incidents identifies several causes, future occurrences of which can be avoided by following the guidance in this document ...*

[www.ciria.org/Resources/Free\\_publications/c736.aspx](http://www.ciria.org/Resources/Free_publications/c736.aspx)

### *The Water Act Passed Into Law May 2014*

*As the Water Act passed into law in May 2014, now is the perfect opportunity to make sure you are up-to-date on the forthcoming reforms within the water industry. ...*

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/21/contents/enacted>

### *New Smarter Guidance & Data Site: Get Involved!*

*The new Smarter Guidance and Data website is a work in progress, it's part of the outcome of the Red Tape Challenge. It is working to make it easier, quicker and clearer to understand what environmental rules apply and simpler to report essential environmental and farming data. The new site is being managed by Defra who want people to get involved and influence what will be on the website, please submit your feedback to them via this link [HERE](#) to see the feedback that they have already received please click [HERE](#) ...*

[www.guidanceanddata.defra.gov.uk](http://www.guidanceanddata.defra.gov.uk)

### *FIA Best Practice Guide To Fire Safety*

*The FIA have just published a new complimentary Best Practice Guide to Fire Safety aimed at everyone who has responsibility for fire safety in their premises. No matter where in the UK you are based or what kind of premises you are responsible for this guide will help explain everything you need to be aware of, in a friendly, easy to understand way ...*

[www.fia.uk.com](http://www.fia.uk.com)

### *Emergency Contact Numbers*

*A useful and freely downloadable wall chart that may be printed and pinned on your office or factories' notice board. It contains details on how to contact the Environment Agency, Flood Forum, etc...*

[www.environmental-innovations.biz](http://www.environmental-innovations.biz)

### *Flood Facts*

*A collection of useful facts about flooding.....*

[www.environmental-innovations.biz](http://www.environmental-innovations.biz)

### *The Full Text of the Environmental Liability Directive*

*Follow the above link to the ELD and other useful information about the environment on the DEFRA website.*

[www.netregs.gov.uk](http://www.netregs.gov.uk)

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