

**ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION, SPILLS, FIREWATER**

**CONTAINMENT NEWS**



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# MAY 2016

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**Dr Paul Leinster**  
Former 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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## **EDITOR'S COMMENT**



Maybe it's my age, maybe it's because i've been editing Containment News for 7 years, or maybe I've just read too many John Le Carré novels, when I hear about the 'de-designation' of bathing waters I smell something fishy (*or sewagey*). Successive governments have dedicated massive resources and time to the reclassification of things in order to improve statistics. If as much energy was focused on solving the core problems as there is to how the problems are statistically reported the country would undoubtedly be in far better shape.

When it comes to pollution you would think that things were simple and clearcut, a beach which is found to be contaminated with untreated sewage is a polluted beach.

However, it appears for some unfathomable reason that the number of people actually using the beach has to be factored in, surely the beach is still a pollution problem whether it's being used by thousands of holidaymakers or one man and his dog.

There are 627 designated bathing waters and approximately 31,000 Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) around the UK, only designated bathing waters are protected by the EU Bathing Water Directive this vital piece of legislation requires regulators to test water quality weekly during the bathing season (May-September).

Earlier this year Staithes, Newhaven and Lyme Regis Church were all de-designated as bathing waters by the government, Staithes and Lyme Regis

Church had both been previously classified as having poor water quality. Defra are currently consulting on whether to remove Silloth from the list of bathing waters and the sea off one of David Cameron's favourite holiday spots, Rock, in Cornwall, is set to be among waters removed from the list of official bathing waters. The "de-designation" will mean the waters no longer need to be tested and swimmers will not be warned if the quality is poor.

The Sunday Times recently reported that "ministers are being accused of "washing their hands" over the problem of dirty and polluted seas". Kerry McCarthy, the Shadow Environment Secretary said "Tory ministers are ducking their duty to ensure Britain's bathing waters meet new EU standards designed to protect the public".

The EU Bathing Water Directive is very clear, it's aim is to "protect human health and the environment" the waters are "classified according to their level of quality: poor, sufficient, good or excellent, linked to clear numerical quality standards for bacteriological quality".

Andy Cummins Campaign Director at Surfers Against Sewage (SAS) said "de-designating beaches allows regulators and local authorities to ignore the pollution problems at beaches and robs communities of further environmental improvements."

You can apply for a bathing water to be de-designated if one of the following applies: 1: There is evidence that the site is no longer used for bathing. 2: The local authority or beach owner is working to deter bathing for safety reasons. Although it's made clear that "application will be rejected if it's based on poor water quality" this simply puts the focus on trying to prove that a beach is not statistically popular and does not "attract a number of bathers proportionate to its size".

As soon as you make pollution a matter of statistical relevance rather than a simple crime against the environment it opens up the possibility for loopholes (surveying during low tide) and numerical haggling over how many beach users qualifies as "significant".

Taking this to a ridiculous extreme, if Blackpool beach became so contaminated with untreated sewage that holidaymakers stopped using it then presumably there would be a strong case for it to be 'de-designated' as bathing water.

The bathing water season starts on the 15th May, so if you have been using our coastal waters since the 1st October 2015, statistically you've not really been there.

The simple fact is that our bathing waters should be monitored all year round and that incidents of pollution require investigation and prosecution regardless of how much wildlife or how many bathers are directly effected.

**Phil Bremner**

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

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# UK NEWS



## Yorkshire Water Fined £1M Over Sewage Leak Into River Ouse

Yorkshire Water has been fined more than £1m following regulation breaches which led to a huge sewage discharge into the River Ouse. Between five and six thousand cubic metres of effluent entered the river upstream from a marina near York, causing excessive ammonia levels, a court heard. A judge criticised the company for its “clear lack of planning and contingency” in failing to carry out appropriate repairs and maintenance over a six-month period. It is Yorkshire Water’s second large fine this year.

In January the company was ordered to pay £600,000 after an ageing sewage pipe burst and killed hundreds of fish in a Wakefield lake ... [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)

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

[www.energylivenews.com](http://www.energylivenews.com) [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) [www.yorkpress.co.uk](http://www.yorkpress.co.uk)

## Bathers Put At Risk As Ministers ‘Duck’ EU Rules On Dirty Beaches

The sea off one of David Cameron’s favourite holiday spots, Rock, in Cornwall, is set to be among waters removed from the list of official bathing spots. The “de-designation” will mean the waters no longer need to be tested and swimmers will not be warned if the quality is poor. Other beaches including Church Cliff in Lyme Regis, Dorset, and Staithes, in North Yorkshire, have been taken off the designated list today. Both were classified as “poor” by the European Union last year and now ministers are being accused of “washing their hands” over the problem of dirty and polluted seas. “Tory ministers are ducking their duty to ensure Britain’s bathing waters meet new EU standards designed to protect the public,” said Kerry McCarthy, the shadow environment secretary. The Rock consultation closes on 17th June 2016 [HERE](#) ...

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

### **United Utilities Admits Illegally Allowing Bleach To Enter Water Supply**

United Utilities and a number of construction companies who work for them have admitted to allowing bleach to enter Bradshaw Brook, in Bolton. In December 2013, hundreds of dead fish began appearing in the brook, floating in their masses and washing up by the dozen on the edges of the stream, which prompted worried local people to contact the Environment Agency, who dispatched investigators and set up an incident hotline to allow anyone spotting further dead fish to get in contact immediately. Tracing the contamination upstream, the Environment Agency operatives found the source to be Wayoh water treatment works, located at Turton, and operated by United Utilities ...

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

### **Pollution Risk From Over 1,000 Old UK Landfill Sites**

Over 1,000 old landfill sites on the coasts of England and Wales are at increasing risk of being breached by erosion, according to a new study, posing a serious pollution danger to wildlife and bathing waters. Landfill sites before the mid-1990s had few or no restrictions about what rubbish could be dumped in them and little is known about what they contain. But many were on the coast and some were used to raise land levels and even as part of flood defences. Climate change is bringing higher sea levels and stronger storms, putting the old dumps at greater risk of being broken up ...

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

### **Gwenfro River Near Coedpoeth, Wrexham, Polluted By 'Dairy'**

A river near Wrexham has been polluted with what may be a dairy product, Natural Resources Wales has said. Environmental officials are investigating a "hate substance" which can be seen in the Gwenfro river near Coedpoeth. A spokesman said: "Our officers are investigating a pollution in the Gwenfro river near Coedpoeth. "The pollutant may be dairy product." ...

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

### **How The A50 Inferno Almost Became A Pollution Disaster**

A major crash on the A50 could have resulted in a serious pollution incident if the tanker containing human sewage had ruptured. Paul Reeves, an officer at the Environment Agency who attended the scene, said: "There was potential of pollution run-off after the fire, either of the foam used to extinguish the flames, or more seriously oils or fuels from the vehicle or contents of the tanker. "It was full of human sewage and if that had ruptured there would have potentially been a serious pollution incident." He said that a stream, called Aston Brook, ran about 50m from where the collision took place. "If the tanker had been full, I would estimate that it would have been carrying at least 10,000 litres of sewage," said Mr Reeves. "And the brook is fairly small there, so that amount of sewage going into a stream of that size would have killed the majority of the fish living in it." ...

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

### **Investigation Launched Into River Dee Ammonia Pollution**

**An investigation has been launched after unusually high levels of ammonia were found in the River Dee. Parts of the river were closed over the weekend in order to protect the drinking supply.**

**Natural Resources Wales (NRW) said ammonia levels were returning to normal and “initial assessments” showed no signs of dead or distressed fish. Agencies have called for any information that could help identify the source of the pollution. Mark Chapman, from NRW, said: “ although we’ve taken many water samples and visited premises in the area, we've not yet been able to confirm if this pollutant has originated from farming practices or from industrial activities.” ...**

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

### **State Of River Kent Water A Growing Concern**

**Angry anglers are concerned about the safety of a South Lakeland river which they say has been contaminated with raw sewage for months. They say foul smelling, discoloured water that has been polluting the River Kent, near Kendal, since the December floods was impacting on wildlife. Geoff Waites, of the Kent Angling Association and owner of the Carlson's Fishing Tackle shop in Kirkland, Kendal, said he has seen dead crayfish and dying seagulls. Anglers have reported sewage downstream from a temporary discharge pipe at Kendal's Waste Water Treatment Works at Wattsfield which they claim has turned the normally crystal clear water a milky colour. The waste water works, run by United Utilities, were badly hit during the December 5 floods. “ t’s being monitored really closely by anglers ...**

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



### **Stafford Fire: Full Impact Of Blaze Revealed As Ducks Covered In Oil And Pollution Miles Away**

**The full extent of pollution from the huge fire that engulfed a Stafford firm was revealed today as new pictures showed the devastation that remains. Oil contamination from the Astonfields Industrial Estate fire flowed north and ended up towards Derbyshire, dozens of miles away. And the Environment Agency, which is conducting an investigation into the fire, said it had passed reports of ‘oiled wildlife in distress’, said to be**

**ducks, onto the RSPCA ... [www.expressandstar.com](http://www.expressandstar.com)**

### **80 Firefighters Battle Huge Oldbury Recycling Plant Blaze**

Up to 80 firefighters have battled for hours with a massive overnight blaze at a Black Country recycling plant. The warehouse and about 200 tons of refuse was well alight with up to 70 per cent of the roof affected by the fire when the crews arrived. Chris Wood, Station Commander, said: "We are working in partnership with the on site company Weir, the Canal River Trust and the Environment Agency." "We have come up with an environmental and water management plan. "We are recycling water and using the plant on site to move the water to an area where we can extinguish the blaze with water using our own hoses ...

[www.expressandstar.com](http://www.expressandstar.com) [www.fleetwoodtoday.co.uk](http://www.fleetwoodtoday.co.uk) [www.letsrecycle.com](http://www.letsrecycle.com)

### **SEPA Clamps Down On Waste Crime**

As part of the LIFE SMART Waste project, SEPA is leading three days of action between 17-19 May, aimed at tackling cross border criminal activity in the waste industry. Targeted interventions are due to take place as part of Operation Nortese, involving site inspections, roadside stops and port checks in collaboration with a range of partner enforcement agencies such as the Environment Agency, Police Scotland, the British Transport Police, HM Revenue and Customs, the Scottish Business Resilience Centre, and the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency ...

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

### **Fire Prevention At Waste Sites: How The Guidance Is Evolving**

For those involved in life safety fire risk assessment, the idea of a fire-risk assessment to protect the environment may seem a little strange. But that's precisely what is required of most businesses which store or treat combustible waste. It's believed that there are fire and rescue call outs to on average one fire per day at waste and recycling sites within the UK. And once fire takes hold in a waste pile, it can take weeks to bring under control ...

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

### **Push For Solution To Water Quality Problems At Spittal**

Cross-border authorities have been urged to get together to reduce pollution from agricultural run-off in the River Tweed. The call was made by Berwick Town Council following Defra's recent classification of the water quality at Spittal as 'poor'. Water quality on the beach, popular with tourists in the summer months, is heavily influenced by the nearby Tweed estuary, a Scottish river for the majority of its length. Cllr Eric Goodyear said: "The main cause of poor water quality is agricultural run-off and the only way of finding a resolution to that is by cross-border authorities getting together to try and find an answer." ...

[www.berwick-advertiser.co.uk](http://www.berwick-advertiser.co.uk)

### **1000 Litres Of Crop Spray Spilled At Heyshott**

Firefighters were called to Leggs Farm, Heyshott around midday today (Tuesday, April 19) when a sprayer tank on the back of a tractor burst spilling 1000 litres of crop spraying chemicals onto a field and into the lane outside Leggs Farm. Fire crews from Midhurst and East Wittering and a

specialist breathing apparatus vehicle from Shoreham were called to the scene. Officer in charge Duncan Knight said: “The farmer and the fire service managed to contain the spillage ...

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



### [Come And Meet The Sponsors Of Containment News](#)

Radio Data Networks ([RDN](#)) one of the generous sponsors of Containment News will be exhibiting their wireless CSO and blocked sewer monitoring technology at [Utility Week Live 17-18 May 2016](#) at the NEC Birmingham. Stand D20.

RDN MD Brian Back will also be speaking at the [Wastewater Monitoring and Real-Time Control in AMP6](#) The event is being held at [The Studio in Leeds](#) on 14th June 2016. For further details please Tel: +44(0)1279 600 440

### [Natural Resources Wales: How We Monitor Bathing Water Quality](#)

There are 103 bathing waters in Wales. In 2016 each one will be tested at least 12 times; immediately before and throughout the season from 15 May to 30 September. The results are used to assess compliance with the directive's standards. As 2015 was the first year that the stricter standards set in the revised directive were applied in Wales, our designated bathing waters must now achieve even tougher water quality targets. The Bathing Waters classifications became an Official Statistic for Natural Resources Wales in 2016 ...

[www.naturalresources.wales](http://www.naturalresources.wales)

### [Communities In Skegness Area To Be In Frontline In Disaster](#)

Councillors and members of the community could find themselves in the frontline alongside the emergency services should disaster strike in Skegness.

The announcement that towns and parishes are being encouraged to develop their own emergency plans was met with mixed reactions at the latest direction and strategy committee meeting of Skegness Town Council. Flood warden Coun Malcom Gabbitas said: “I was against this from the beginning. What would happen if there were any disasters other than flooding? “If there was an oil spill or gas leak, how could we deal with that? If we had three metres of snow I wouldn’t even be able to get out.” However, clerk Steve Larner explained the Emergency Plan was not intended to replace the role of the emergency services or ‘primary agencies’ in an emergency situation ...

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

### [South West Water Deny Woodbury Stream Pollution Cover Up](#)

South West Water have admitted polluting a stream after a spillage from their sewage works at Woodbury. A judge at Exeter Crown Court has ordered a fact finding hearing to establish whether the company tried to prevent the

Environment Agency finding out about the incident in September 2014. The company denies that it deliberately kept the pollution watchdog in the dark about an incident which led to some fish being killed in Polly Brook in Woodbury ...

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



### Record £1.2M Fine For London Waste Giant's Pollution

One of the biggest waste-management companies in the South-East has been given a record fine over illegal treatment of hazardous material including asbestos at its huge Willesden depot. Power day, run by London Irish rugby club co-owner Mick Crossan, disposes of waste for major clients including Barratt Homes, Berkeley Homes and Carillion. The firm was ordered to pay more than £1.2 million at Harrow Crown Court for offences related to two separate cases which, combined, saw more than 17,000

tonnes of waste deposited and stored illegally. The record fine came under tough new sentencing guidelines for environmental crimes ...

[www.standard.co.uk](http://www.standard.co.uk) [www.ciwm-journal.co.uk](http://www.ciwm-journal.co.uk)

### Ward Recycling Fined £370K For Derbyshire Breaches

Donald Ward Limited, trading as Ward Recycling has been fined £270,000 plus costs for environmental breaches described by the Environment Agency as “serious and persistent”, at two sites in Derbyshire. In addition to fines totalling £270,000, there were prosecution costs of £100,000 bringing the total payable to £370,000. The fines included costs avoided by the company of £40,000 ...

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

### Oil Storage Regulations For Wales

Following a consultation in 2015, the regulations set standards for oil storage facilities which aim to prevent the escape of oil and the resulting risk of water pollution and damage to land and property. The main requirement is for secondary containment, for example a bund or wall around the tank, to prevent any leaks from an oil storage facility escaping into the wider environment. These requirements apply to all oil storage facilities installed from 15 March 2016 ...

[www.gov.wales](http://www.gov.wales)

### Rush To Solve Mystery Of Contaminated Sidmouth Stream

A contaminated stream in Sidmouth could cause the town to lose its ‘good’ Environment Agency rating. Wipes have been appearing in the culverted stream, which runs from Compton road all the way to the beach, last

year. Environment Agency workers have recently taken part in their second batch of investigative work, with the help of East Devon District Council and Devon County Council, to try and identify the source of the contamination. It is hoped that samples taken from various manholes on the stream's route will identify the problem. If the problem is still occurring on May 1, when beach season begins, the town could lose its 'good' rating from the Environment Agency ...

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

### Thames Water To Take Action To End Colnbrook's Swarms Of Gnats

Encouraging news for homes and businesses nearest the sludge works off Lakeside Road: operator Thames Water is to implement new measures to tackle the swarms of little black flies making their lives a misery. Originating from the Iver South Sewage Works off Lakeside Road, Colnbrook, the swarms of black-winged fungus gnats plaguing Colnbrook homes and businesses for years have become a fact of life for many. But new protocols shortly to be put in place offer a new hope that the problem could soon be at an end ...

[www.colnbrook.info](http://www.colnbrook.info)

### 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 : 25 May 2016: Flow measurement workshop: Meeting data and commercial needs today and into the future, HR Wallingford to include an optional tour of Froude Hall hydraulic modelling equipment. 22 June 2016: Process Control (working title), Steam Museum, Kempton Park WTW, London, kindly sponsored by Thames Water to include an optional tour. July 2016: Biosensors, details TBC 2-3 Nov 2016: SWIG Early Career Researcher Poster Competition and a SWIG workshop to be held at WWEM - more details soon! 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: Future Water Association Water Dragons 2016 Heat Two, 17 May 2016, NEC : 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.futurewaterassociation.com](http://www.futurewaterassociation.com)



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# WORLD NEWS

## CHINA: 80% Of Water In Rural Areas Polluted

A recent report posted by China's Water Resources Ministry on its website on Tuesday warned that over 80 percent of the water drawn from relatively superficial wells and used by farms, factories as well as the majority of the rural households in the country is hazardous for drinking owing to contamination. The Water Resources Ministry undertook a study in this regard in January when it examined samples obtained from 2,013 wells with a view to monitor the watersheds in the country's eastern flatland ...

[www.en.yibada.com](http://www.en.yibada.com)

## WORLD: The Massive Tragic Trashing Of Our Oceans

It's impossible to overestimate how critical the oceans are to the overall health of life on Earth. For one thing, tiny marine plants called phytoplankton provide up to 85 percent of the world's oxygen, according to [EarthSky.org](#). But the oceans don't just give us good stuff like oxygen; they take away bad stuff, like carbon dioxide. A 2011 international study led by the University of East Anglia in Norwich, England, estimated that the oceans absorb 27 percent of the CO2 produced by the fossil fuel combustion ...

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

## VIETNAM: Taiwanese Firm In Hot Water After Mass Fish Deaths

Deputy Prime Minister Truing Hoa Binh Friday ordered the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and Ha Tinh Province authorities to investigate suspicions that a Taiwanese company has discharged untreated wastewater into the sea causing mass fish deaths. Binh ordered strict measures against violators and called for emergency solutions to end the devastating environmental disaster, which is affecting livelihoods of fishing villages across central

Vietnam. A large number of dead fish have been washed ashore in Ha Tinh and several nearby provinces ...

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

### **RUSSIA: Nuclear Nightmare Flows Down Radioactive River**

At first glance, Gilani Dambaev looks like a healthy 60-year-old man and the river flowing past his rural family home appears pristine. But Dambaev is riddled with diseases that his doctors link to a lifetime's exposure to excessive radiation, and the Geiger counter beeps loudly as a reporter strolls down to the muddy riverbank. Some 50 kilometers (30 miles) upstream from Dambaev's crumbling village lies Mayak, a nuclear complex that has been responsible for at least two of the country's biggest radioactive accidents. Worse, environmentalists say, is the facility's decades-old record of using the Arctic-bound waters of the Techa River to dump waste from reprocessing spent nuclear fuel, hundreds of tons of which is imported annually from neighbouring nations ...

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

### **RIO: Olympians Shouldn't Swim Through Sewage**

This summer, when the Olympic Games are held in Rio de Janeiro, marathon swimmers, sailors and triathletes will be asked to compete in the highly polluted waters of Guanabara Bay and off nearby Copacabana Beach. Any athlete coming into contact with these waters has a high probability of becoming ill. Members of the United States junior national rowing team and competitive sailors have become sick with diarrhea, vomiting and flu-like symptoms after training and competing around Rio, and they experience only "incidental contact" with the water. Marathon swimmers and triathletes will ingest this water — and the consequences could be deadly ...

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

### **MALAYSIA: Rivers In Penang Turn Black Due To Pollution**

Another river in Penang has turned black and is emitting a foul stench. Locals, especially tour operators, and tourists are dismayed by the pollution as the river mouth of Sungai Mas is a popular beach area. "The polluted river has caused Batu Ferringhi to have a bad name and has disrupted the holiday mood," he said ...

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

### **FRANCE: 'Prettiest River' Polluted By Huge... Butter Slick**

An industrial accident has led to a river in Brittany, dubbed France's prettiest, being polluted by a huge butter slick. The 62km-long River Odet in Brittany has been named the prettiest in France, its route taking in the region's chateaux and woodland as it flows serenely out to sea. It is a popular spot for boat trips, kayaking and fishing - but the Brittany river was attracting interest for all the wrong reasons this week, after an accident at a nearby dairy plant left it polluted with a large amount of butter ...

[www.thelocal.fr](http://www.thelocal.fr)

### **CHINA: River Turns Red Due To Pollution**

A river in China's northern Hebei Province has turned red due to pollution from local iron and steel plants, Chinese media reported. The reports of the polluted river come days after the government said over 80 percent of the country's underground water was unsafe for drinking due to pollution. Water in a 4-km stretch of the Zhongting River was flowing red due to high concentration of iron ion and industrial waste, the state-run Xinhua ...

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

### **GAZA: Gazan Sewage Polluting Mediterranean Coast**

Raw sewage from the Gaza Strip is polluting the Mediterranean coastline, and its impact can be felt far afield, The Times of Israel reported. While fresh water supplies for Gaza residents are at greatest risk, water sources in Israel are beginning to see the effects of a problem that could spread across the sea if left unchecked. "It's certain that Gaza Strip's beaches are completely polluted and unsuitable for swimming and entertainment, especially in the summer," said Ahmed Yaqoubi of the Palestinian Water Authority ...

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

### **AUSTRALIA: Politician Blames Fracking After He Sets River Ablaze**

Some people want to watch the world burn. Others, like Jeremy Buckingham, a member of the Australian Parliament, will settle for rivers. In an act of protest against coal seam fracking, the Australian Greens party member recently took an aluminium boat down the Condamine River in Queensland, Australia. This was no lazy afternoon cruise. The surface of the river fizzed with bubbles of methane gas. Methane is colourless and odourless, but it's also quite flammable. Buckingham leaned over the side of the boat, and, as though lighting a barbecue, set the methane ablaze ...

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

### **CHINA: New Weapon Against Water Pollution: Its People**

China's government calls its newest environmental campaign "hei chou he," which literally translates to "black and stinky rivers." Walking through an industrial section of southern Beijing, resident Shi Dianshou thinks he's found one. "Look at all this garbage!" Shi exclaims, descending a riverbank filled with trash and milky white water. "The water is very dirty, too. I'd say this river belongs in the black and stinky category ...

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

### **USA: Water-Related Risks Strand \$Billions In Projects**

In early November 2002, six years before Lehman Brothers melted down and the American economy came much too close to collapsing, John Cassidy wrote a prophetic article in the New Yorker magazine on ominous trends in U.S. home mortgage financing. Cassidy, one of the top U.S. financial journalists, reported that softening housing prices, easy lending practices, and wage earners taking on more debt than they could possibly afford "could also mark the beginning of something much more serious." More than a decade later economists and

financial analysts are again identifying powerful signals of economic distress, this time in the energy, mining, power-producing, and farm industries ...

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

### **WORLD: Learn From A Woman Who Lives A “Zero Waste” Life**

Did you know that an average person generates 4.3 pounds of waste per day? According to Duke University’s Center for Sustainability and Commerce, approximately 55 percent of 220 million tons of waste generated each year in the United States ends up in one of the over 3,500 landfills. "Using 'business-as-usual' projections, we predict that, by 2100, solid-waste generation rates will exceed 11 million tonnes per day - more than three times today's rate. With lower populations, denser, more resource-efficient cities and less consumption (along with higher affluence), the peak could come forward to 2075 and reduce in intensity by more than 25 percent. This would save around 2.6 million tonnes per day,” ...

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

## **IT’S NOT ALL BAD NEWS :-)**

### **Cornwall’s Record Breaking Beach Spring Clean**

St Agnes based Surfers Against Sewage says its Big Spring Beach Clean has delivered a record-breaking 231 beach cleans across the UK. Over 2,000 Cornish beach-lovers took part here with Cornwall being the best-represented county in the UK. Together these community volunteers removed 8 tonnes of marine litter from 38 beaches. Cornwall also hosted the biggest single Big Spring Beach Clean ever, with 285 people joining the SAS team at Perranporth to remove two tonnes of marine litter. Across the UK 8,000 beach clean volunteers removed 35 tonnes of marine litter from some of the nation’s favourite beaches, recycling 10 tonnes of marine plastics in the process, making this the most successful Big Spring Beach Clean yet ...

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

### **New ‘Bathing Water’ Designation For West Runton**

West Runton beach has been officially designated as a “bathing water”, a key step on the way to winning sought-after Blue Flag status. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has announced today that West Runton has successfully passed the tests to achieve the designation. Beaches and inland lakes that attract a large number of bathers can be designated as bathing waters under the Bathing Water Directive. Water quality at bathing waters is tested during the bathing season, which in England runs from May to September. Councillor Becky Palmer, Cabinet Member for Leisure at North Norfolk District Council, said: “The district is very proud of its four Blue Flag beaches at Cromer, Sheringham, Sea Palling and Mundesly ...

[www.edp24.co.uk](http://www.edp24.co.uk)

### India, Germany Join Hands To Clean River Ganga

India has joined hands with Germany to attain “pristine” status of Ganga by adopting river basin management strategies used for cleansing rivers like Rhine and Danube of pollutants.

Ministry of Water Resources and German International Cooperation (GIZ), owned by the German Federal Government, signed an agreement in this regard. The agreement was signed in the presence of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation secretary Shashi Shekhar and German Ambassador to India Dr Martin Ney. The objective of the agreement is to enable responsible stakeholders at national and state levels to apply integrated river basin management approach for Ganga’s rejuvenation, the Ministry said in a statement ...

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

### Call Of Nature Campaign Gets Serious About Sewage

Call of Nature is a new campaign to raise awareness of the pollution that badly maintained septic tanks, cesspits and package sewage treatment plants could cause to the North West’s rivers and waterways. The North West region has the highest number of private sewerage systems in the UK with 60,000 properties not connected to the public sewer network. Septic tanks work like miniature sewage treatment systems, which store and treat waste from households. Full details of the campaign can be found on Call of Nature’s website [HERE](#)

[www.cumbriacrack.com](http://www.cumbriacrack.com) [www.itv.com](http://www.itv.com)

### The Cotton Bud Project FIDRA

Some exciting news in the battle against marine plastic litter, namely that Johnson & Johnson, and Waitrose, have both committed to stopping the use of plastic in their cotton bud sticks by the end of 2016, following extensive dialogue with [Fidra](#) (a charity based in East Lothian, Scotland. Fidra seek to find ways to engage local concerns over current and emerging environmental issues, and use this to contribute to wider dialogue at national and international levels. With plastic cotton buds in sewage related debris the **PROBLEM** has a simple **SOLUTION**. The Cotton Bud Project, has recently launched its new website - please see link below ...

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

**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 01279 600 440*

## **CONTAINMENT NEWS IS SPONSORED BY:**

### **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.co.uk](http://www.environmental-innovations.co.uk)

### **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.

### **EA Archiving Pollution Prevention Guidance In December**

*The Environment Agency (EA) are archiving all pollution prevention guidance, such as PPGs and Pollution Prevention Pays, in December 2015. This is part of the review and reform of external guidance that they are undertaking as part of Defra's Smarter Guidance project. In line with the rest of Defra, we will no longer publish guidance that we aren't uniquely placed to provide, which includes most good practice guidance. Pollution prevention guidance contains a mix of regulatory and good practice advice. Pollution prevention guidance will be archived from GOV.UK to the National Archives Archived content isn't updated and becomes progressively out-of-date, so shouldn't be relied upon because we can't guarantee the accuracy of legal references. The EA will continue to publish guidance on GOV.UK to help people comply with the law, understand their rights or access Government services.*

### **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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