

Train hauling chemicals derails in Kentucky



AP PHOTO

Several train cars derailed and exploded near Shepherdsville, Ky., on Tuesday, shutting down a nearby highway and forcing evacuations of homes, businesses and a school.

Fire closes major highway, nearby school; homes evacuated

By DYLAN T. LOVAN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SHEPHERDSVILLE, Ky.

Several train cars carrying volatile chemicals derailed and exploded Tuesday south of Louisville, shutting down a nearby highway and forcing evacuations of homes, businesses and a school, authorities said.

There were no immediate reports of injuries from the wreck that occurred about 8:45 a.m., but the fumes caused several people to seek treatment at a local hospital, authorities said.

The blaze produced a massive column of black smoke in the mostly rural area. Television footage showed several blazing cars stacked across the rail lines and flaming liquid flowing down ditches from the mangled tanker cars.

At least eight tanker cars were burning, Bullitt County sheriff's

detective Scotty McGaha said.

Three cars involved in the fire were carrying chemicals including cyclohexane, Bullitt County Emergency Management spokesman Jeremy Urekew said.

The chemicals are volatile, but don't pose a serious health threat, Urekew said.

"These substances themselves are pretty toxic, but when they burn they break down a whole lot," Urekew said.

"This fire is going to burn itself out."

Two other cars were carrying hazardous materials that could pose an environmental threat, but they were not near the fire, he said.

CSX Corp. spokesman Gary Sease said the train — with four locomotives and 80 cars — was headed to Louisville from Birmingham, Ala. Sease had initially said the cars were carrying liquid propane gas, but later

said that information was inaccurate.

Forty-one cars were loaded with freight and the rest were empty, Sease said.

The immediate area, including Brooks Elementary School, was evacuated, said state police Maj. Lisa Rudzinsky.

She did not give the radius of the affected area, which has residential, industrial and rural properties.

Authorities also shut down an 18-mile stretch of Interstate 65, Kentucky State Police dispatcher Joey Mattingly said.

Eleven people were treated at a hospital for symptoms related to the fire, hospital spokesman Brian Doheny said.

The Kentucky National Guard said it mobilized 20 to 25 soldiers and airmen to check air quality.

Bullitt County resident Daymon Strange said he was outside

his home less than a half-mile from the crash site when he heard an explosion.

"I turned around and looked and there was fire at least 500 feet in the air," he said.

"I've never seen such a fire. It was huge."

Strange said he smelled the fumes even though they were blowing away from his home.

"You can taste it and feel it in your lungs when you go outside," he said.

Gov. Ernie Fletcher, who flew over the area with the Kentucky Air National Guard, said he has not determined whether a state of emergency will be declared.

It was the second fiery train crash in Kentucky in two days. On Monday, four runaway rail cars struck two parked locomotives in central Kentucky, catching fire and spilling a chemical that prompted a limited evacuation.

Navy to name aircraft carrier for Gerald Ford

By KEN THOMAS
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON

The Navy said Tuesday its next aircraft carrier will be named the USS Gerald R. Ford in honor of the late president, a tribute to his love of the Navy.

Ford, who served in the Navy during World War II, died Dec. 26 at his home in Rancho Mirage, Calif., at 93. Former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld had said the Navy was planning the honor during a eulogy at Ford's funeral.

"President Ford will always be an example to us of personal kindness, loyalty and coolness under pressure," said Vice President Dick Cheney, who served as Ford's chief of staff, during a Pentagon ceremony.

Susan Ford Bales said her father had mentioned the impending honor in a letter to a friend shortly before his death.

He wrote, "In my life, I have received countless honors, but none was greater than the opportunity to wear the uniform of lieutenant commander of the



AP PHOTO

Vice President Dick Cheney, second from left, applauds behind a model of the new U.S. Navy aircraft carrier, named the USS Gerald R. Ford, during a naming ceremony at the Pentagon on Tuesday. From left are Navy Secretary of the Navy Donald Winter, Cheney, former President Ford's daughter Susan Ford Bales, and Ford's son Steve.

United States Navy."

The former president wrote it was a "a source of indescribable pride and humility to know that an aircraft carrier bearing my name may be permanently associated with the valor and patriotism of the men and women of the United States Navy."

Betty Ford did not attend the ceremony but planned to watch it on a Pentagon broadcast, said

Ford Bales, who was joined by her three brothers.

She said the family was grateful to the U.S. service branches for accompanying them during the services honoring their father.

"There is nothing, absolutely nothing, that would have made Dad prouder," she said.

Several lawmakers said Ford had an intimate knowledge of

"There is nothing, absolutely nothing, that would have made Dad prouder."

Susan Ford Bales
On the Navy naming its next aircraft carrier after her father, Gerald Ford

aircraft carriers and even helped save one in the Pacific.

Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., noted that during Ford's combat service aboard the aircraft carrier USS Monterey, he led a crew that battled a fire sparked by planes shaken loose in a December 1944 typhoon.

"Thirty years before President Ford would right our ship of state, Lt. Ford helped save the Monterey and its men," Levin said.

The 1,092-foot long aircraft carrier, with capacity for a crew of 4,660, is the first in a new line of carriers and is expected to be commissioned in seven to eight years, officials said.

WOMEN'S MISSION CRUSADE 2007
EVANGELIST - MELISSA WILCOX
JANUARY 19, 20 AT 7:00
THE CHURCH OF GOD
856 N. MAIN ST., FRANKLIN
"COME AND SEE"

Daniel S. Martin
ORTHODONTICS
Don't Delay, Call for your BRACES today!
After school appointments available!

FREE

- Initial Exam
- Digital X-rays
- Consultation

799 W. Jefferson St., Suite B,
Franklin, IN 46131
317-736-0607

And the Winners are...



Lisa Westfall, Austin Sellers & Nikki Thompson



Lisa Westfall, Cheyanne Canner & Nikki Thompson

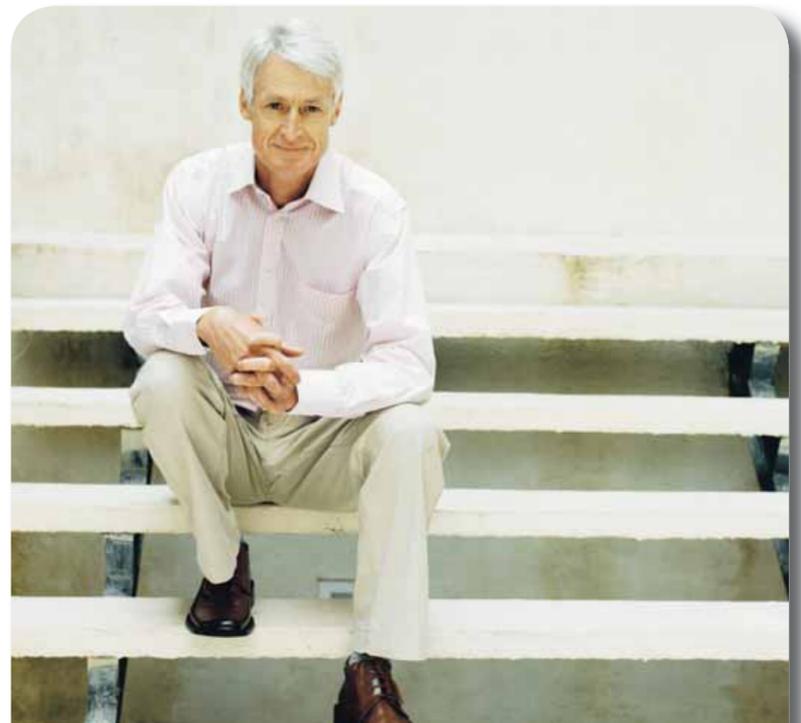
Lisa Westfall, Lincoln Bank Franklin Branch Manager & Nikki Thompson, Lincoln Bank Asst. Marketing Director, present a \$50 savings bond to Austin and Cheyanne

Sponsored by

DAILY JOURNAL



Daily Journal and Lincoln Bank wish to thank all of the participants in our 2006 Christmas Countdown contest.



Tired of living with knee or hip problems?

Attend our free seminar and learn what you can do about knee or hip problems. Learn about some of the causes and the latest treatments, including information about medications, nutrition and exercise.

FREE SEMINARS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25
6:00 p.m.
and
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22
2:00 p.m.

St. Francis Joint & Spine Center
St. Francis Hospital-Beech Grove, 2nd Floor
1600 Albany Street, Indianapolis, IN

To register or get more information, call us at 1-877-888-1777.

ST. FRANCIS JOINT & SPINE CENTER