

## The Rockies

### Man killed by fumes at refinery

**Associated Press**  
CHEYENNE, Wyo. — One man was killed and another critically injured Tuesday when they were overcome by deadly fumes while doing maintenance on a process unit at the Husky Refinery in Cheyenne.

The victims were in an isolated area and no other refinery employees or nearby residents were endangered when the small gas leak occurred about 10:30 a.m., according to George Dibble, company spokesman in Denver.

Laramie County Coroner Roger Radomsky identified the dead man as Ken Kent, 38, of Cheyenne. Radomsky said he assumed the man suffocated.

Dibble identified the injured man as Kenneth Krilling, 25, also of Cheyenne. He was listed in critical condition at Laramie County Memorial Hospital, but hospital officials declined to reveal the nature of his injuries.

The two were working on a tower outside the main building when a small amount of gas apparently escaped from a pipe joint or a valve. Dibble was not certain what type of gas escaped but said officials suspected it was hydrogen sulfide gas, a byproduct of the refining process when crude oil with a high sulfur content is processed.

Dibble said the company would have to interview the injured workers, who apparently suffered respiratory injuries, and other workers to find out specifically what happened.

Investigators from the state Occupational Safety and Health Commission staff were scheduled to continue their investigation Wednesday at the scene, according to Administrator Donald Owsley. Their investigation could override Wednesday or take several several days, he said. The team will determine whether any rules were violated and whether to issue any citations.

Owsley, who has been with the agency since 1978, said he could not recall another similar fatal accident at the Husky refinery.



**Ducked duck**

Ducks at the Phil McKee residence in Loveland must have been looted by November's warm weather, because they laid 30 eggs several months before the usual spring mating season. This Indian Runner duck has been utilized by others to incubate the clutch.

### Obscene calls add 6 months to Thirters term

**Associated Press**

GOLDEN — Robert Paul Thirters, sentenced to 18 years' imprisonment in the sexual assault and attempted murder of a young girl, must serve an additional six months for making obscene telephone calls to a Littleton police officer and the officer's family.

Jefferson County Judge James Demlow ordered the six-month term, and suspended and suspended a maximum \$500 fine, which Demlow said Thirters cannot pay because he's confined to the state prison in Canon City.

Thirters, 27, went to prison Sept. 27, less than 12 hours after he pleaded guilty to charges of attempted murder and sexual assault in the August 1983 abduction of Lori Poland of Sheridan, a town south of Denver. The girl was 3 years old at the time of the incident.

Thirters could be released in less than five years under the state's laws-offer good-behavior policy.

The blond youngster was lured into Thirters' car while playing in front of her home. She was found alive three days later at the bottom of an outhouse pit at Chief Hosa Campground in Jefferson County.

Thirters was brought from the state prison in Golden for Tuesday's court hearing.

### Yarbrough says gun used in Berg's slaying isn't his

**Associated Press**

BOISE, Idaho — Former Army National Guard member Gary Yarbrough says he possessed but didn't own the gun police claim was used to kill a Denver radio talk show host, and he has an intention of cooperating with authorities who suspect him in the June slaying.

"Why should I help them? Yarbrough, 26, said Tuesday at the Ada County Jail, where he is being held on federal assault and weapons charges.

He said authorities investigating the shooting of radio host Alan Berg are out to do the dirty work of the Jews." Berg, gunned down outside his lawoffice, was Jewish and spoke against extremists.

"I know nothing about Alan Berg, except that he was a Jew," said Yarbrough, a red-haired Caucasian who crosses his index fingers to form what he calls "the sign of the cross of Jesus."

He said Jews' lineage make them the "enemy of God," but he said

people of the Jewish faith are not his personal enemies.

He made his remarks in an interview in the jail visiting area.

Yarbrough was separated from reporters and photographers by a window and spoke by phone. The father of four read from the Bible repeatedly and referred often to Jesus Christ on a yellow pad.

Yarbrough is in custody on charges of assaulting a federal officer and possessing firearms as a convicted felon.

### Wire check

**Denver**

#### StorageTek tries new financing plan

The troubled Storage Technology Corp. is to go before a federal bankruptcy court judge today in a last ditch attempt to gain access to new funds that will let the computer component maker keep its doors open.

Lawyers close to the company and its creditors told the Denver Post that U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judge Jay Geerck is likely to approve the corporation's latest financing plan. Geerck also must decide, however, what protection to extend to a group of 18 banks that claim a right to the money, as creditors of Storage Technology's financing subsidiary.

"Nobody's going to be surprised if he grants it," said one lawyer for a creditor. "The question is, on what terms."

By late Tuesday, at least one creditor, Credit Suisse, had filed an objection to StorageTek's proposal to use or sell customer obligations.

#### Heat assistance fund donations drop

Plans for contributions to the Public Service Co. of Colorado's fuel bill assistance program for the needy will be included in January billings, because donations to the program have dropped, a spokesman said.

"This really is a chance to help a worthwhile cause," said Larry Porter, a spokesman for the utility. "It's not a cure-all program, but it does keep people — from getting their services shut off. This is their last chance," he said.

The fuel bill aid program, in effect for two years, has helped more than 4,500 people, according to PSC officials. But Porter said public contributions to the fund plunged last year to about one-third what they were the first year of the program.

#### Prisoners protest transfer of rioters

Federal Correctional Institution inmates for a second day remained on lock-down status while prison officials talked to inmates whose work strike Tuesday led to the lockdown.

All prison activities remained suspended today, and inmates were confined to their dormitory rooms, where meals were brought in.

Prison spokesman Art Eggenraas says the strike apparently was a protest against the return of 20 inmates who had been transferred temporarily to other prisons following an Oct. 27 clash between inmate American and black inmates in which 11 prisoners were hurt.

The 20 inmates were brought back to the prison Sunday from a facility in El Reno, Okla., said Eggenraas.

#### Boiler

##### Early parole sparks a petition drive

Upset over the parole of Elizabeth Manning, a Lakewood pediatric nurse has launched a petition drive to reform what she considers too-lenient state sentencing laws.

Sara Lancaster earlier gathered signatures on a petition that protested Manning's impending parole in March. Manning was convicted of assaulting a child abuse in connection with the death of her 3-year-old son in December 1982.

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