

# Pollution incidents in the South Durban Basin

## A Community under siege

Hullets sirens blared at 05:00am on the 9th of May 2008. Residents of Clairwood and surrounding areas were awoken by the loud noise. People were scared and did not know where to go. No cause was given for the fire.

On the 12 Feb 2007, workers affected with chemical leak at Beacon Sweets. 22 were hospitalized at ChatsMed after suffering from chest pains and other respiratory problems

On the 28/10/2006 the SAPREF plant burnt for three hours in the morning. It was a fire in the Diesel De-Sulphurising unit.

On the 18th Sept 2007, six tanks at Island View storage were gutted and four others damaged in a chemical blaze.

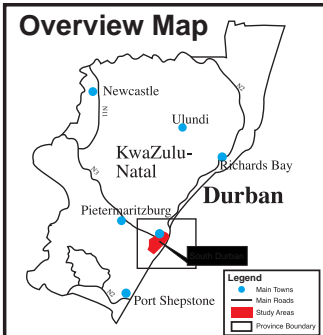
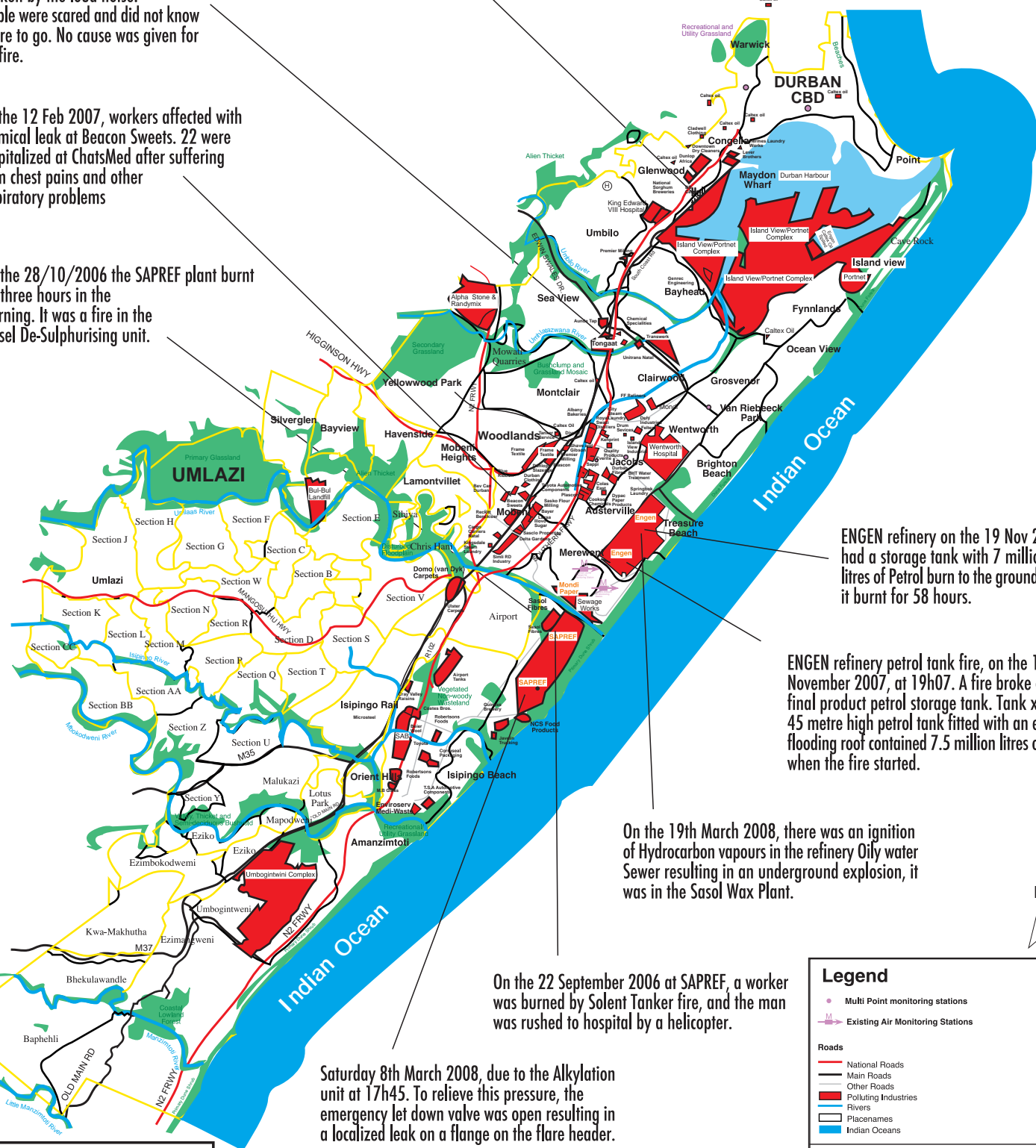
ENGEN refinery on the 19 Nov 2007, had a storage tank with 7 million litres of Petrol burn to the ground after it burnt for 58 hours.

ENGEN refinery petrol tank fire, on the 19th November 2007, at 19h07. A fire broke out in a final product petrol storage tank. Tank x 104, a 45 metre high petrol tank fitted with an external flooding roof contained 7.5 million litres of Petrol when the fire started.

On the 19th March 2008, there was an ignition of Hydrocarbon vapours in the refinery Oily water Sewer resulting in an underground explosion, it was in the Sasol Wax Plant.

On the 22 September 2006 at SAPREF, a worker was burned by Solent Tanker fire, and the man was rushed to hospital by a helicopter.

Saturday 8th March 2008, due to the Alkylolation unit at 17h45. To relieve this pressure, the emergency let down valve was open resulting in a localized leak on a flange on the flare header.



Air pollution, which is the result of emissions of gas and dust into the air, may arise from petrochemical refineries, chemical production and storage, heavy industry, cars and aeroplanes. Thousands of air pollutants arise from industrial facilities and processes including:

- CFCs (Chloroflourocarbons)
- Lead
- Hydrogen Sulfide
- Ammonia (NH3)

**Legend**

- Multi Point monitoring stations
- Existing Air Monitoring Stations

**Roads**

- National Roads
- Main Roads
- Other Roads
- Polluting Industries
- Rivers
- Placenames
- Indian Oceans

The companies shown as 'Polluting Industries' were extracted from the South Durban Emission Inventory, which lists emitters of Sulphur Dioxide and other criteria pollutants.

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