

'Operational incident' at Fawley Oil Refinery further increases risk of petrol shortage during strike



There is no doubt whatsoever this incident will increase anxiety of workers at the site and local residents, says GMB

GMB, the union at Fawley Oil Refinery, has warned contractors at the site petrol production will now almost certainly be affected by the forthcoming strike action, following part of a structure collapsing yesterday evening.



The union understands ExxonMobil, which runs the site, was forced to isolate a unit after an incident occurred on the Catalytic Cracking Unit, leading to gas flaring.

ExxonMobil describes the event as an 'operational incident.'

GMB union members working for mechanical contractors at the site are set to take industrial action from 21 November over pay.

Bryan Hulley, Regional Organiser said:

"The workings of an oil refinery are very complex however, as I understand it, this incident occurred on the Catalytic Cracking Unit (aka the Cat Plant), which is widely known by workers at the site to be integral to the production of petrol.

"It is highly likely therefore that production could be affected.

"Our members who are due to take strike action work as pipe fitters, boilermakers, welders, mechanical fitters, ladders and scaffolders and so it is their job to repair this type of equipment.

"There is no doubt whatsoever this incident will increase anxiety of workers at the site and local residents.

"I would again urge the contractors to get us back around the table, as we remain ready to talk if they want to avoid this strike before it has started."

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