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NEWS RELEASE

Hertfordshire Oil Storage Limited statement

21st December 2005

The fire at Buncefield terminal was extinguished on Wednesday, December 14th. All the injured have been discharged from hospital.

Most residents and businesses are now returning to their homes and workplaces. A 'repair and assistance' helpline has been set up as a gesture of goodwill for those who require emergency help with repairs to houses and premises. The necessary work is being facilitated as quickly as possible, via a bank of carpenters, glaziers and other repair specialists.

The Health and Safety Executive, jointly with the Environment Agency, has begun its investigation to ascertain the causes of the incident, and the Rt Hon John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, made a second visit to the site on Saturday 17th December. The Environment Agency is continuing to monitor air quality, and sample levels remain low and well within health and safety guidelines.

Total and Texaco appreciate the co-operation of its partners in the oil industry who have been working with us since Sunday to ensure any disruption to fuel supply is minimal, and to help with additional product and distribution resources.

-ENDS-

For further details, please contact the Press Office on 0870 241 4337.

About Hertfordshire Oil Storage Limited (HOSL)

HOSL forms part of the Buncefield terminal in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire. It is a joint venture between TOTAL UK Limited (60%) and Texaco (40%). Other companies at the Buncefield terminal include BP, Shell and the British Pipeline Agency.