



Two oil tankers struck in Gulf of Oman

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Attacks on two oil tankers on Thursday in the Gulf of Oman left one ablaze and both adrift, shipping firms said, driving oil prices up 4% over worries about Middle East supplies.

- 1-1. Burning in waters between Gulf Arab states and Iran - _____
- 1-2. two oil tankers _____
3. This was carrying a cargo _____
- 4-1. The hit sending oil prices _____
- 4-2. a month after four other tankers were damaged _____
5. The Norwegian owner of the burning ship _____
6. While the other tanker owned by Japan _____
7. Full details about Thursday's incident _____
- 8-1. The firm which chartered one of the vessels _____
- 8-2. while a source said the other _____
9. The Bahrain-based U.S. Navy Fifth Fleet said it was assisting the tankers _____
10. While the UK Maritime Trade Operations, part of Britain's Royal Navy, _____
11. Saudi Arabia and the U.S. blamed Iran _____
12. The region was already on edge _____

13. That occurred amid a dispute between Iran and the U.S. _____

14. The attacks _____

15. With growing concerns for the safety of ships and their crew _____

16. The world's most important _____

[Vocabulary]

Gulf of Oman: an arm of the Arabian Sea connecting it with the Persian Gulf

Gulf Arab: The **Arab states of the Persian Gulf** are the seven Arab states which border the Persian Gulf, namely Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). This excludes the non-Arab state of Iran. All of these nations except Iraq are part of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), and prefer to use the term "Arabian Gulf" rather than the historical name of the Persian Gulf.

Gulf Arab states:

cargo: things that are being sent by ship, airplane, train, or truck

• *The ship and all its cargo sank.*

petrochemical: a chemical made from petroleum or natural gas

feedstock: the main raw material used in the manufacture of a product

ablaze: burning with a lot of flames

naval mine: (*military*) An explosive device placed in the water and intended to destroy or deter vessels

adrift: floating on the water without being tied to anything or controlled by anyone

charter: to rent a boat, airplane, or bus, especially for use by a group of people

torpedo: a weapon shaped like a tube that is shot under water to hit a ship or a submarine

mine: a bomb that is hidden under the ground or under water and explodes when someone or something touches it

• *It costs about \$3 to lay a mine and about \$1,000 to dig it out.*

magnetic mine: (nautical) a marine mine that is detonated by a mechanism that responds to magnetic material

Bahrain: an island country in the Persian Gulf off the coast of Saudi Arabia; oil revenues funded progressive programs until reserves were exhausted in 1970s

U.S. Navy Fifth Fleet: a numbered fleet of the United States Navy. It has been responsible for naval forces in the Persian Gulf, Red Sea, Arabian Sea, and parts of the Indian Ocean since 1995 after a 48-year hiatus. It shares a commander and headquarters with U.S. Naval Forces Central Command (*NAVCENT*) in Bahrain.

distress: a situation in which a ship, aircraft, etc. is in great danger and likely to sink or crash

distress call: an internationally recognized signal sent out by a ship or plane indicating that help is needed

maritime: involving ships or the business of moving people and goods in ships

- a maritime company/disaster

blame: to say or think that someone or something is responsible for an accident, problem, or bad situation

- *I don't blame him for getting angry.*

blame A for B:

- *You blame me for all your troubles.*

charge: an official statement accusing someone of committing a crime

- *She was accused of shoplifting but the police later dropped the charges.*

on edge: tense, nervous, irritable

- *We were all on edge as we waited for the surgeon's report.*

asset: something such as money or property that a person or company owns

oil asset:

amid: if something happens amid particular feelings or events, it happens while people have these feelings or while these events are happening

- *The secretary resigned amid accusations of bribery and corruption.*

dispute: a disagreement or argument about something important

- *He presented no new plans to settle the Arab-Israeli dispute.*

Tehran: the capital and largest city of Iran; located in northern Iran

program: a plan of activities for an event or a series of events

- *Throughout the year, the city hosts a varied program of festivals.*

nuclear program:

shockwave: a widespread feeling of shock caused by an unexpected event

- *The oil embargo sent shockwaves through the American economy.*

send shockwaves:

concern: a feeling of worry about something, especially one that a lot of people have about an important issue

growing concerns:

strait: a narrow channel of the sea joining two larger bodies of water

Strait of Hormuz: a strategically important strait linking the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman

artery: an important road, railroad, or river