



A bomb disposal technician prepares for the controlled detonation of hazardous materials, behind a dump truck and within an earth berm, in the 4700 block of First Street S.W. on Wednesday. The substances are believed to include picric acid, which is highly volatile when dried. *GAVIN YOUNG*

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Tactical team detonates
hazardous substances

Blasts heard for several blocks in
the Manchester Industrial area

KOBE TULLOCH

Calgary police, fire crews and the tactical team worked along Macleod Trail on Wednesday to dispose of volatile material that, according to Calgary Police Service Deputy Chief Cliff O'Brien, sat for approximately 10 days before being identified.

A large zone was evacuated in the Manchester Industrial area.

"A local moving company was hired with the intention of disposing of the several substances,"

O'Brien said.

The hazardous materials are believed to include picric acid, which is highly volatile and dangerous when dried.

The materials are believed to have been mislabelled and inappropriately transported.

When the moving company opened the pallet and identified the acid and other substances, the containers they were in had begun to deteriorate.

O'Brien said that over the 10 days the material sat, there wasn't risk

to the public in the area — unless somebody moved it.

"As soon as it gets moved, or potentially jarred, then there would be a risk," he said.

"It could explode."

Given the volatility of the substance, the tactical team was engaged and the area was evacuated after first reports around noon Tuesday.

Portions of the substance were being destroyed Wednesday afternoon in controlled explosions.

The first detonation occurred shortly before 1:30 p.m. A flash of fire was seen and the contained blast could be heard for several city blocks.

SEE HAZARDOUS ON **A3**

Carney opens the door wide
for Canadian LNG exports



CHRIS VARCOE

When it comes to Canadian energy these days, it seems appropriate to quote the old Monty Python catchphrase — "and now for something completely different."

How else do you explain the 180-degree reversal in messaging that the federal government has delivered in Europe this week by promoting Canadian liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports

to Germany, compared with its skeptical stance just three years ago.

It's not just a reversal. It's a full repudiation.

"Unlike the previous Canadian government, which closed the door to LNG exports, Prime Minister (Mark) Carney's government has opened them," Natural Resources Minister Tim Hodgson told business leaders on Wednesday in Berlin.

"Potential projects (are) in the earliest of stages and no route is mapped out for sure.

"But any proponent who comes forward with a project that features good economics and buy-in from the province and Indigenous people, we will take a

good look at and we will help get built."

Well, that is certainly different. And it's creating great expectations within Alberta and the sector that Carney will aggressively promote the export of super-cooled Canadian natural gas to the world, including countries in Europe.

"It is certainly a pivot for the federal government and a sensible one for the country," said Tristan Goodman, head of the Explorers and Producers Association of Canada.

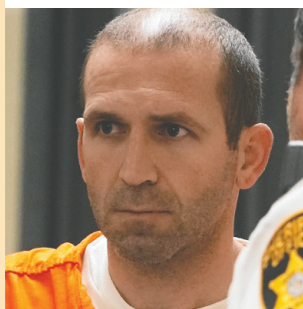
"It is nice to see the federal government finally acknowledge that there is a business case for Canadian LNG, and that the energy industry is foundational to Canada's economy and its place in the world. Alberta has been saying those things for years," provincial Energy Minister Brian Jean said in a statement.

SEE VARCOE ON **A4**

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