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From Associated Press reports

## Oil rig capsizes; 84 feared missing

### ST. JOHN'S, Newfoundland

A raging North Atlantic storm toppled the giant Ocean Ranger oil rig anchored 200 miles east of Newfoundland early Monday, and all 84 workers aboard were reported missing, including 46

American employees.

Only one body was recovered, officials said. Pilots of search-and-rescue aircraft reported spotting other bodies and debris in the wind-lashed, 50-foot waves but said they saw no sign of the rig, which has a deck larger than a football field.

Snow whipped by 80 mph winds battered the Ocean Ranger Sunday night, and Mobil

Oil Canada Ltd. ordered workers to abandon it at 2:54 a.m. local time Monday (1:24 a.m. EST) when it was listing at 15 degrees.

Work boats made their way to the site and one body was recovered, search and rescue officials reported. They said three of the rig's four enclosed lifeboats were sighted, with two bodies in one and the other two

lifeboats empty.

Search-plane pilots, with visibility limited to about a half mile, reported they also saw two of the rig's 12 inflatable rafts, but no sign of life.

## Burning freighter beached on river

### KALAMA, Wash.

A burning 600-foot freighter filled with wheat was beached Monday on the Columbia River while doctors treated six people injured in the spectacular fire that was visible for miles.

An early-morning explosion aboard the stricken vessel critically injured two Coast Guard firefighters and left a Seattle fireman with numerous cuts, while three freighter crewmen were hospitalized suffering smoke inhalation, authorities said.

"The fire is still burning. The agent has turned it over to private salvage crews, who are trying to confine the fire to the stern section," Coast Guard Chief Guy Scull in Seattle said Monday afternoon.

The Protector Alpha, longer than two football fields and holding 28,000 tons of wheat, was towed upriver from the Kalama grain terminal and beached on the Oregon side of the river.

## American car sales decline 7 percent

### DETROIT

Car sales for the five U.S. automakers were down 7 percent from a year ago in the first 10 days of February, despite rebates offered by four of the companies, the industry reported Monday.

It was the worst figure during the period in 21 years.

Of the Big Three, Ford had the largest decline, 14.8 percent, while Chrysler Corp. was off 4.5 percent from last year, and General Motors was down 0.4 percent.

American Motors Corp. sales for the period dropped 41.1 percent from 1981, and Volkswagen of America, which did not start a rebate program until Feb. 11, was off 56.5 percent.

Car sales from Feb. 1-10 totaled 142,273, compared to 136,034 in early February 1981. The daily sales rate of 15,371 cars was the worst since the same period in 1961, when the rate was 13,187.

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