Thursday 12th November



On 9th November 1970 a 14-meter-long, 8-tonne (7,400 kg) whale washed up on a beach near Florence, Oregon, USA. It was already dead and had been washed ashore by tide and current. It was already rotting and smelled dreadful.

Oregon State Highway Division was in charge of beaches and decided it was too big to move, too big to bury in the sand and no-one wanted to cut it up, but something had to be done as the smell was really bad. They decided to blow it up with half a tonne of dynamite, hoping the **carcass** would disintegrate, and any remaining small pieces would be the perfect size for seagulls, crabs and other scavengers.

The explosives were buried on the landward side of the whale in the hope that most of the pieces were blown out to sea. A crowd of spectators and a TV crew (original news footage) came to watch the unique event and they were sent back a supposed safe distance from the whale of around 400 meters. It was not far enough and moments after the explosion chunks of whale blubber of various sizes rained down over everyone. One piece, the size of a table crushed the roof of a car, but thankfully no one was hurt. Some remaining pieces were so huge they had to be buried anyway and there were no birds around to eat the small pieces, having been scared off by the huge explosion.

- What would you do if you were responsible for dealing with eight tonnes of washed up dead whale?
- Can you think of other examples where there have been unintended consequences of a plan?

Thursday 12th November

On 9th November 1970 a dead 14-meter-long, 8-tonne (7,400 kg) whale washed up on a beach near Florence, Oregon, USA. It smelled bad and no-one knew what to do with it.

It was decided to blow it up with half a tonne of dynamite, hoping the **carcass** would disintegrate, and any remaining small pieces would be eaten by scavengers such as seagulls and crabs.

A waiting crowd and a TV News crew (footage) watched on 12th November from a supposed safe 400 meters back as the whale was exploded.



It was not far enough! Large chunks of whale blubber rained down over everyone. One piece, the size of a table crushed the roof of a car, but thankfully no one was hurt.

- What would you do if you were responsible for dealing with eight tonnes of washed up dead whale?