

Steve Ackerman • Sheriff

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News Release

Lea County-

The Lea County Sheriff's Office responded to southern Lea County regarding an explosion, while enroute we were informed there were several serious injuries. Upon arrival to the area off of NM128 and Orla Rd, they discovered one of the workers on the site was deceased (James, Rusty Harrison in his early 40's) as a result of the explosion. One other worker (Tyler Winter's in his middle 20's) had sustained injuries to his chest, torso and right leg and he was air lifted to Lubbock for treatment.

The initial information received indicated the workers were loading oil field related materials into perforated pipe which was being installed into the drilling pipe; when an explosion occurred. This was reported to cause metal and shrapnel to enter into several the victims. There was no fire at the scene as a result of the explosion.

The oil field site belonged to Mesquite SWD out of Carlsbad, NM and the company working on the site was Warrior Wireline and both of the victims worked for Warrior Wireline. The investigation is continuing at this time.

Tom Dunford

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