

	Date	City	State	Age Group - Injury			Age Group - Fatality			Ignition Source	Material in Tank	Incident Summary	Source	Link to Media Article
				Teen	Young Adult	Adult	Teen	Young Adult	Adult					
1	4/2/1983	Center	TX				2			gas distillate	Explosions blew apart two gas storage tanks containing gas distillate and killed two fourteen-year-old girls who were playing nearby, authorities said Sunday, but four other youths escaped without injury.	Associated Press	1983-04-03 - Center, TX.doc	
2	6/24/1985	Centralia	IL	3		1	1		fireworks	fumes from crude oil	Firecrackers tossed into a 10-foot tall oil tank triggered an explosion that killed one teenager and injured three others. The father of the fatality was also injured. Clinton County Sheriff Jerry Dall was quoted as saying that the blast blew the storage tank off its base and splattered crude oil on homes nearly 100 yards away.	Chicago Tribune	1985-06-24 - Centralia, IL.DOC	
3	5/16/1990	Beggs	OK					3	lighting cigarette	crude oil	An oil storage tank exploded, killing three men in their early 20s. Te accident was caused when one of the men attempted to light a cigarette.	USA Today	1990-05-16 - Beggs, OK.doc	
4	8/17/1990	Logansport	LA				2	2		crude oil	Four people, including two teenage sisters, were killed when a storage tank exploded. Lt. Robert Davidson of the DeSoto Parish Sheriff's Office said the victims were apparently climbing a ladder to the top of the tank when the explosion happened.	Washington Post	1990-08-17 - DeSoto Parish, LA.doc	
5	6/19/1991	Oklahoma City	OK				1		match	hydrocarbon gases & saltwater	A 13-year-old boy playing atop an oil field salt water tank was killed by an explosion triggered when he apparently struck a match. His body was thrown 60 yards by the blast.	Daily Oklahoman	1991-06-19 - Oklahoma City, OK.pdf	
6	10/28/1991	Tyler County	TX	1	1				lighting cigarette		An adult and a teenager were injured when an oil storage tank exploded, igniting four other tanks. According to a Tyler County sheriff's office investigator, the explosion resulted when one of the victims lit a cigarette lighter near the storage tank's open hatch. .	San Antonio Express News	1991-10-28 - Tyler County, TX.pdf	
7	9/22/1992	Sherman	TX	4			1		match	petroleum	A petroleum tank explosion early today killed a teen-ager and injured four others, officials said. The explosion occurred around 2:30 A.M. at a Chevron U.S.A. tank farm just outside this city about 60 miles north of Dallas. Seven teen-agers were having a party near the tanks. Four of them crawled on top of one of the tanks, and one apparently lit a match to see inside the tank.	New York Times	1992-09-22 - Sherman, TX.doc	
8	7/2/1993	Dixon	KY	5			4		lighting cigarette or firework		Four Webster County teenagers were killed and five others injured when a crude oil storage tank in a remote wheat field exploded. The victims had gathered at the site to party. A cigarette or firework triggered the explosion that was felt seven miles away. According to the Kentucky State Police, the four who died were sitting on top the tank when it exploded.	Associated Press	1993-07-02 - Dixon, KY.doc	
9	4/23/1995	Duncan	OK				3				An oil-field blast killed three 13-year-old boys while playing near two remote oil field storage tanks.	Daily Oklahoman	1995-04-23 - Duncan, OK.doc	
10	11/30/1995	Bradford	PA				2		lighting cigarette	crude oil	A lit cigarette was blamed for an oil tank explosion in Bradford, Pa., that killed two 14-year-old boys who were playing on the tanks.	Pittsburgh Gazette	1995-11-30 - Bradford, PA.DOC	
11	6/22/1997	Konawa	OK				2		fireworks	crude oil	Two teenagers ages 15 and 13 died when they climbed an oil tank and lit fireworks, triggering an explosion. Authorities found the bodies about 250 feet away from where the 20,000-gallon tank exploded just after 1 a.m.	Associated Press	1997-06-22 - Konawa, OK.doc	
12	7/29/1997	Chandlersville	OH				2			crude oil	Two teenagers ages 17 and 15 died when a 15-foot-tall oil tank exploded. Muskingum County sheriff's office investigators believe the teens might have been climbing the tank at the time of the blast. The bodies were found more than 200 feet from the explosion.	Columbus Dispatch	1997-07-29 - Chandlersville, OH.DOC	

	Date	City	State	Age Group - Injury			Age Group - Fatality			Ignition Source	Material in Tank	Incident Summary	Source	Link to Media Article
				Teen	Young Adult	Adult	Teen	Young Adult	Adult					
13	8/14/1998	Logan	OH	1			1				A young man was killed and a 16-year-old girl was seriously injured when an oil storage tank exploded along a rural road in Hocking County. The victims were thrown about 100 feet from the blast.	Associated Press	1998-08-14 - Logan, OH.DOC 1998-08-14 - Logan, OH-2.DOC	
14	1/31/2000	Flora Vista	NM	1			1		lighter thrown in tank	drip gas	A gas tank explosion that killed one teen-ager and critically injured another was apparently caused when one of the boys threw a lighter into the 12,000-gallon tank.	Albuquerque Tribune	2000-01-31 - Flora Vista, NM.DOC	
15	5/26/2001	Heflin	LA	2			1		lighting cigarette	crude oil	A teen-ager smoking atop a crude oil tank caused an explosion and fire that killed him and critically burned another teen-ager.	Associated Press	2001-05-26 - Heflin, LA.doc	
16	11/30/2001	Duson	LA	1						crude oil	A crude oil storage tank exploded, hurling a 14-year-old boy more than 100 feet. The boy was reportedly walking his dog in the fields surrounding the tank when it exploded.	Daily Advertiser	2001-11-30 - Duson, LA.doc	
17	4/11/2003	Long Lake (Palestine)	TX				4		lighting cigarette	petroleum	Four teenagers died in an oil storage tank explosion. A surviving witness told Anderson County sheriff's office investigators that he and four teens killed had climbed to the top of the tank and opened a hatch. The survivor said a cigarette lighter triggered the blast. Fatalities were thrown nearly 75 yards by the blast.	Associated Press	2003-04-11 - Long Lake, TX.DOC	
18	9/6/2003	Gaysport	OH		2				lighting cigarette	crude oil	Two men suffered head injuries when an oil storage tank exploded. One of the men apparently lit a cigarette after climbing atop the tank at about 7 a.m.	Associated Press	2003-09-06 - Gaysport, OH.doc	
19	5/14/2005	Ripley	OK		1		1	1		crude oil	Two men ages 19 and 20 died from third-degree burns over 90 percent of their bodies when an oil storage tank exploded on private property five miles east of Ripley. The two fatalities, together with two other men, had been drinking and decided to stop at oil lease at about 4 a.m.	Associated Press	2005-05-14 - Ripley, OK.DOC	
20	12/18/2006	Springtown	TX	1			1		match	crude oil	An oil storage tank explosion left one teen dead and another injured. Investigators say it appears the youths dropped a lighted object inside to look at the tank.	Fort-Worth Star Telegram	2006-12-18 - Springtown, TX.DOC	
21	3/12/2007	Oklahoma City	OK	1							A 15-year-old boy was in critical condition Tuesday after an explosion and fire burned more than 45 percent of his body.	Daily Oklahoman	2007-03-14 - Oklahoma City, OK.pdf	
22	5/17/2007	Mercedes	TX				3		cigarette lighter	substance left over from drilling	Three people were killed and their bodies burned beyond recognition Friday when a liquid storage tank exploded in a field near Mercedes. Officials found two bodies, believed to be 13 and 16 years of age, near the explosion site and another about 30 yards away, he said. The explosion occurred between 2:20 and 3 p.m.	Associated Press	2007-05-17 - Mercedes, TX.doc	
23	6/23/2007	Steamboat Springs	CO				2				Two teens who were jumping on an oil storage tank were killed when the tank exploded and hurled them 150 feet.	Associated Press	2007-06-23 - Routt National Forest, CO.doc	
24	10/31/2009	Carnes	MS				2			distillate	Two teenagers were killed in a weekend explosion at an oil-holding tank in south Forrest County. 16-year-old Devon Byrd and 18-year-old Wade White died after the explosion around 4 a.m. Saturday near White's home in Carnes.	Associated Press	2009-10-31 - Carnes, MS.doc	
Total Injuries and Fatalities:				20	4	1	36	6	0					

Two Teen-Agers Killed in Blast

The Associated Press

April 3, 1983, Sunday, AM cycle

SECTION: Domestic News

LENGTH: 164 words

DATELINE: CENTER, Texas

Explosions blew apart two gas storage tanks and killed two teen-age girls who were playing nearby, authorities said Sunday, but four other youths escaped without injury.

The group was gathered near the distillate tanks when they exploded at about 5:30 p.m. Saturday, said Mike Towns, chief Shelby County deputy.

Killed were Michelle Crawford and Christy Bangart, both 14 and from Houston, Towns said, adding that the others were unhurt. The girls were pronounced dead at the scene.

"One tank was blown about 150 yards from the site and the immediate area ... was engulfed by fire," Towns said.

The cause of the explosions was under investigation, he said.

The blasts occurred at the site of an Ark-La gas well in the east Texas community of Stockman, west of Center and just south of Timpson, where the girls were visiting relatives, Towns said.

The tanks contained about 210 barrels of gas distillate, which is "highly explosive," Shelby County deputy Liz Warr said.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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FIRECRACKER PRANK KILLS 1, INJURES 4

Chicago Tribune

June 26, 1985 Wednesday, MIDWEST FINAL EDITION

BYLINE: Associated Press.

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 3; ZONE: C

LENGTH: 345 words

DATELINE: CENTRALIA, ILL.

With the 4th of July days away, four teenagers threw firecrackers into an old oil tank to create a bigger bang, police said. But the fireworks triggered an explosion that killed one of the youths, injured his father and the other youths and rattled windows a mile away.

"I heard a low rumble, saw the fireball and then the black smoke," said Cindy Frazier, who lives across the road from the site. "The whole trailer shook."

The blast Monday evening sent a ball of flame 300 feet in the air, and then three boys ran from the site, their clothing afire, according to Frazier and other witnesses.

Police say the fireworks ignited fumes from oil remaining in the 10-foot- high tank.

One witness said William Stein Sr. was burned when he tried to save his son, William Jr., 16, who died soon after the blast.

A friend of the victims, Curt Miller, 15, said the boys bought firecrackers at a roadside stand in nearby Missouri, where such sales, forbidden in Illinois, are legal. He said they had been setting them off in the neighborhood.

Clinton County Sheriff Jerry Dall said the force of the explosion blew the storage tank off its base, ripping loose its heavy metal lid and peppering homes 100 yards away with crude oil.

The explosion rattled windows about a mile away in this southern Illinois city of 15,000 about 70 miles east of St. Louis. It shook homes close to the site.

Stein's son died about an hour after he and his three companions were transferred from Centralia to St. John's Mercy Medical Center in St. Louis, hospital spokeswoman Pat Dunn said Tuesday.

Two of the youths, Scott Dunaway, 16, and Richard Mallory, 15, were listed in critical condition in the hospital's burn center. Dunaway's brother, Ronnie, 14, was in satisfactory condition with burns to his back and arms.

Stein was admitted to St. Mary's Hospital in Centralia for burns to his hands and arms, spokeswoman Betty Williams said. He was listed in stable condition Tuesday.

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OKLAHOMA

USA TODAY

May 18, 1990, Friday, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 6A

LENGTH: 50 words

DATELINE: OKLAHOMA CITY

Budget bill OK'd by Legislature spreads \$ 435 million among 11 agencies. Gov. Bellmon has 5 days to sign or veto it. ... BEGGS - 3 men whose car got stuck in mud were killed by explosion after 1 of them climbed on nearby crude-oil storage tank, officials said; Spark may have ignited tank's fumes.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

TYPE: Across the USA

Copyright 1990 Gannett Company Inc.

4 Die When Oil Tank Explodes

The Washington Post

August 19, 1990, Sunday, Final Edition

BYLINE: ns

SECTION: FIRST SECTION; PAGE A19; AROUND THE NATION

LENGTH: 136 words

DATELINE: LOGANSPORT, La.

Four people apparently climbing on an oil storage tank were killed when the tank exploded, authorities said.

The victims, including two teenage sisters, were apparently climbing a ladder to the top of the tank Friday night when a spark ignited the explosion, said Lt. Robert Davidson of the DeSoto Parish Sheriff's Office.

"Places like these are gathering places for teens," he said. "At most of these places, the gates are unlocked or broken. They are a pretty good place to get out of town. Hopefully, after this, that will end."

The dead were identified as Becky Wall, 16, and Heather Wall, 14, both of Keatchie; David Price, 21, of Logansport; and Tony Walker, 21, of Flatwood, Tex.

The about 30-foot tank held about 20 gallons of oil, far below its capacity of several thousand gallons, he said.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

SERIES: Occasional

TYPE: NATIONAL NEWS

Copyright 1990 The Washington Post

Boy Killed in Oil-Field Tank Blast

By Charolette Aiken

Thursday, June 20, 1991

Edition: CITY, Section: NEWS, Page 09

An Oklahoma City youth was killed late Wednesday by an explosion that leveled a salt water tank after he apparently struck a match while playing on top of the oil-field unit, authorities said.

Jose L. Lara, 13, 3728 SE 48th Place, was thrown 60 yards from the tank by the force of the explosion at 5100 S Gaines, Capt. Jim Gallegly said.

The boy and two friends apparently climbed a fence to get inside the property, which is near a residential area, he said.

Lara apparently was playing with the matches on top of the tank when it exploded shortly after 7 p.m., assistant fire chief Jon Hansen said.

"There wasn't a fire, just a flash type of explosion," Gallegly said.

Hansen said the match ignited hydrocarbons (gases) which had collected in the top of the tank.

The 8,000 gallon tank contained about 5,000 gallons of salt water.

"These things don't explode without somebody tampering with them," Hansen said.

The boy was flown by helicopter to Children's Hospital of Oklahoma where he later died at 8:26 p.m., hospital spokeswoman Emily Lampton said.

The storage tank was one of three at the oil exploration site, Hansen said. The other two tanks were not damaged, but firefighters fought for several hours to contain the thousands of gallons of salt water flowing from the debris, he said.

"Neighbors said kids climb the fence and play in there often.

The gates were locked and it was up to (city inspection) codes," Hansen said.

The other two youths were not injured, and their names were not released by police.

Fire inspectors will visit the site today.

NewsBank InfoWeb**NewsLibrary**

Estimated printed pages: 1

San Antonio Express-News

October 28, 1991

Page: 12A

Oil tank explosion injures 2

Author: *Associated Press*

Dateline: HILLISTER

Article Text:

A man and a teen were seriously injured over the weekend when an **oil** storage **tank** exploded, igniting three others and spreading to a fourth, authorities said.

The **explosion** began when one of the victims lit a cigarette lighter near a storage **tank**'s open hatch, said Tyler County Sheriff Gary Hennigan.

"They couldn't see what was in there and (one) turned the lighter on and boom," Hennigan said.

John Redmond, 23, suffered second-degree burns to 40 percent of his body and was reported in critical condition at John Sealy Hospital in Galveston, said Rochelle Dearman, a hospital spokeswoman.

Steven McKee, 15, was reported in stable condition in the intensive care unit of Shriners Hospital in Galveston.

The storage **tank** at the East Hillister **Oil** Field, five miles east of F.M. 1013 and U.S. 69 was lit and the fire spread to two 1,000-barrel **tanks** that then exploded, said John Yearwood, Tyler County Emergency Management Coordinator.

Four **tanks** were destroyed and a fifth **tank** was deformed after it swelled from the heat, he said.

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Record Number: 45503

Oil Tank Blast Kills Teen-Ager

The New York Times

September 23, 1992, Wednesday, Late Edition - Final

BYLINE: AP

SECTION: Section A; Page 22; Column 6; National Desk

LENGTH: 76 words

DATELINE: SHERMAN, Tex., Sept. 22

A petroleum tank explosion early today killed a teen-ager and injured four others, officials said. The explosion occurred around 2:30 A.M. at a Chevron U.S.A. tank farm just outside this city about 60 miles north of Dallas. Maj. Skip Walley, chief criminal investigator for Grayson County, said seven teen-agers were having a party near the tanks. Four of them crawled on top of one of the tanks, and one apparently lit a match to see inside the tank.

LOAD-DATE: September 23, 1992

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

Copyright 1992 The New York Times Company

Four Killed in Tank Explosion

The Associated Press

July 3, 1993, Saturday, PM cycle

BYLINE: By BOB LEWIS, Associated Press Writer

SECTION: Domestic News

LENGTH: 427 words

DATELINE: DIXON, Ky.

A gathering of friends at a popular meeting spot turned tragic when a oil tank exploded, killing four and injuring five others, police said.

The nine were "partying" around the 210-barrel crude oil tank on private property near Dixon when the tank exploded about 8 p.m. Friday, said Jimmy Oakley, assistant fire chief in nearby Providence.

The cause of the explosion was not immediately known, but fireworks or cigarette smoking was suspected, said Steve Nall, the state Division of Disaster and Emergency Services director in Webster County.

The spot is just off a gravel road tucked inside a wheat field and was a popular spot for young people in the county to gather, Nall said.

Police early today declined to say whether alcohol was found at the scene.

The blast almost leveled the 20-foot high tank and shook homes two miles away.

"You could see the smoke for miles. (Flames) shot several hundred feet up in the air," said Nall.

Dixon is located in western Kentucky near the Ohio River, about 130 miles southwest of Louisville.

Four of the injured were taken to the Regional Medical Center in Madisonville, where stunned relatives huddled inside the lobby early today awaiting word.

Marian Frederick had been able to talk to her grandson, Terry Melton, a junior at Webster County High School.

"He told us he just had this feeling and he said he told his girlfriend, Melissa, 'Let's get away from there' and they walked away from the tank. A few seconds later in blew up and his clothes caught on fire, but he dropped to the ground and rolled," said Mrs. Frederick.

Melton was listed in good condition early today. The condition of his girlfriend and her last name could not be determined early today.

Another victim, 17-year-old Michael Ashcraft of Slaughter, suffered severe burns but managed to drive to a farmhouse to summon help, said his father, Jerry Ashcraft.

"They told us he'd be OK. So I guess we were fortunate," said the elder Ashcraft.

Michael Ashcraft was in the intensive care unit of the hospital early today.

Hospital spokeswoman Alysia Leasure said no information would be released on the other victims early today.

Another victim was flown to Welborn Baptist Hospital in Evansville, Ind. and transferred to the Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tenn.

Doug Williams, a spokesman for the medical center, said the victim was in the hospital's burn unit in critical condition early today. He said the victim's name was not being released.

The names of the dead had not been released early today.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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Duncan Mourns for 3 Boys Killed in Oil-Field Blast

Daily Oklahoman (Oklahoma City, OK)

April 25, 1995, Tuesday CITY EDITION

BYLINE: Lillie-Beth Sanger, Lawton Bureau

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 6

LENGTH: 348 words

DATELINE: DUNCAN

DUNCAN - If Duncan Middle School Principal Mike Reding had to choose a sandlot baseball team for fun, the three teen-aged friends killed Sunday in a Duncan explosion would be among the first he'd pick.

"They were really fine kids," Reding said, talking about their friendly attitude, attendance at school and efforts for good grades.

Jon Logan Lockstone, David James Baker, and Chad Astin Sullivan, all 13, lived within "bicycle riding distance," Reding said.

On Monday, in the shadow of the Oklahoma City bombing tragedy, the Duncan community mourned its loss after the three teen-agers were killed Sunday when two oil-field storage tanks exploded in northwest Duncan.

They had ridden their bicycles to the remote, wooded area and were playing near the tanks.

Police and fire officials do not know why the tanks exploded nor the boys' exact cause of death.

Counselors and ministers spent Monday offering help to students at Duncan Middle School where the boys were in seventh grade.

Each of the boys was active in their respective churches and at school. Baker played the saxophone in the band. Lockstone and Sullivan played baseball.

Lockstone was involved in Boy Scouts, played football, and liked to draw and work out with his father, said Beverly Clinger, youth director at First United Methodist Church in Duncan.

"He had a real gift to work with younger children. He was a real mature young man, way beyond his years," she added.

Tracy Ward, youth pastor at the First Baptist Church where Sullivan attended, described him as "very outgoing" with a good sense of humor.

Baker was outgoing, a "ball of energy," and "quite the explorer," said his youth pastor, Billy Morgan of the Immanuel Baptist Church of Duncan.

"He was born in the wrong generation. He belonged in the pioneer days," Morgan said of Baker. "I feel heaven doesn't have a corner today that hasn't been examined by him."

The boys will be remembered in a memorial service at 2 p.m. today at the First Baptist Church in Duncan. Their funerals will be Wednesday.

LOAD-DATE: March 17, 1998

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

Blast Blamed on Cigarette; Oil Tank Explosion, Fire Kills Two

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

November 30, 1995, Thursday, SOONER EDITION

SECTION: LOCAL, Pg. B3

LENGTH: 112 words

A lit cigarette probably caused an oil tank explosion and fire that killed two 14-year-old boys in McKean County.

A pack of cigarettes and a lighter were found near the body of John Blouser, Bradford police said yesterday. He and Kevin Carns apparently had been playing on top of the tanks.

One tank exploded about 4:40 p.m. Tuesday in Bradford, McKean County. It caught fire and ignited another tank nearby.

Several people reported seeing two teen-age boys playing on the tanks shortly before the explosion.

The tanks, owned by Willard Cline of Bradford, each could hold up to about 80 barrels of crude oil. Authorities did not know how full they were.

LOAD-DATE: November 30, 1995

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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Two teens killed when oil tank explodes

Associated Press

June 22, 1997, Sunday, AM cycle

SECTION: Domestic News

LENGTH: 138 words

DATELINE: KONAWA, Okla.

Two teen-agers died early Sunday when they sat down on an oil tank and lit fireworks, setting off an explosion that could be seen for miles.

Authorities found the bodies in a field, about 250 feet away from where the 20,000-gallon tank exploded just after 1 a.m. about 50 miles southeast of Oklahoma City.

"We believe they were on top of the tank when it ignited," said Seminole County Sheriff Charles Sisco.

Authorities had not positively identified the victims by Sunday evening but believed they were Tim Choate, 15, and his best friend, Michael Untersee, 13. One of the boys had fireworks and house matches in his pocket, authorities said.

"They liked to hang out there, get on top because it's out of the weeds, sit there and talk in the night," Sisco said. "This was their little club house, so to speak."

LOAD-DATE: June 23, 1997

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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Associated Press

TEENS LIKELY ATOP EXPLODING OIL TANK

Columbus Dispatch (Ohio)

July 31, 1997, Thursday
Correction Appended

BYLINE: Mike Lafferty, Dispatch Staff Reporter

SECTION: NEWS LOCAL & NATIONAL , Pg. 8C

LENGTH: 364 words

DATELINE: CHANDLERSVILLE, Ohio

Two teens may have been atop an oil tank when it exploded, killing them and hurling them high in the air in a remote area east of here Tuesday night, the Muskingum County sheriff said yesterday.

Sheriff Robert J. Stephenson said the position of Christy Keaton, 15, of Otsego, Ohio, and Joe Wolfe, 17, of New Concord, Ohio, may never be known, but the distance their bodies were hurled indicates that they may have been atop the tank.

The 9:15 p.m. explosion hurled Keaton's body about 250 feet, over trees 40 feet tall. Wolfe's body was thrown about 220 feet from the blast site. The steel tank, 10 feet in diameter and 15 feet deep, was blown from its base and landed 256 feet from the site, said Stephenson.

"I'd say they died from the force of the explosion," Stephenson said.

The site of the accident is a rugged, wooded area about 100 yards east of Watson Road in Rich Hill Township.

Stephenson said Keaton and Wolfe were with two other teens. He said it's unclear what the teens were doing at the site. The group separated, with Keaton and Wolfe walking toward the tank, which had a ladder up its side. The other couple had returned to their vehicle before the tank exploded, Stephenson said.

The surviving teens, who have not been identified, were uninjured. They flagged down a passing motorist who used a cellular phone to contact authorities.

Firefighters from the Cumberland Volunteer Fire Department extinguished the fire from the blast, which left the surrounding trees and other vegetation charred.

"It really affects us deeply. It really hurts to come on the scene and find children," said Firefighter Elizabeth Whited.

The tank is part of a complex of two natural gas wells on land owned by the Ohio Power Co. The wells and tank are owned by the Kingston Oil Co. of Zanesville, which owns the mineral rights on the property.

Small amounts of oil also are found in gas wells and the tank was used to collect the oil.

Sheriff's investigators, with the assistance of officials from the state Division of Oil and Gas, are attempting to determine what set off the gas in the tank.

Kingston President Nick Pustay declined comment.

LOAD-DATE: August 3, 1997

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

CORRECTION: Kristie Dawn Keeton, 15, died as a result of the explosion of an **oil tank** in Muskingum County on Tuesday. The Muskingum County Sheriff's Department provided The Dispatch with the incorrect spelling of the girl's name that appeared in Thursday's newspaper.

GRAPHIC: Photo , Mike Lafferty., Employees of the Kingston **Oil** Co. look over the **oil tank** that landed 256 feet away from an explosion in Muskingum County. The blast killed two **teen**-agers who police speculate were on top of the **tank** when it exploded.

Copyright 1997 The Columbus Dispatch

Teen-agers enjoyed partying at site of explosion, official says

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

August 16, 1998, Sunday, PM cycle

LENGTH: 299 words

DATELINE: LOGAN, Ohio

Partying teen-agers frequently were chased away from the site where an oil tank exploded, killing one person and injuring another, said the president of the company that owns the tank.

Not even a locked fence and no trespassing signs kept people away from the area south of this city about 45 miles southeast of Columbus, said Doug Kitchen, president of Chieftan Energy, a small oil- and gas-producing company.

"I've put 15 locks on this gate over the years, and I've had the gate damaged twice," he said of the site, which has about 30 tanks. "It's a popular place for partying and trespassing."

Paul Morrison, 18, of Logan, died after he was thrown 150 feet in an explosion so powerful that much of the tank ended up about 100 yards away.

His companion, Brandy Vollmer, 16, of nearby Lancaster, was thrown 60 feet. She was in serious condition Sunday night at Grant Medical Center in Columbus.

It was unclear whether Morrison and Ms. Vollmer were on or near the tank.

"To the best we can tell, they were out here partying," Hocking County Sheriff's Cpl. Don Jackson said Saturday. "We want to talk with the girl to find out what happened."

Relatives dispute the claim that the two had been partying.

Jim Vollmer, the girl's uncle, said the girl's father, Randy, told him he had been with his daughter 15 minutes before the explosion.

Kitchen, who is also a paramedic and one of the first to respond to the scene, said the tanks were equipped with non-sparking lids, but vapors from the tanks are extremely flammable.

When firefighters arrived, they found a small brush fire and another tank on fire, he said. The gate leading to the tanks was open and a vehicle was parked near them.

People as far as two miles away called authorities to report the blast.

LOAD-DATE: August 17, 1998

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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OIL FIELDS, TEENS PROVE DEADLY MIX

Columbus Dispatch

August 16, 1998

SECTION: NEWS , Pg. 1D

LENGTH: 813 words

DATELINE: LOGAN, Ohio

Their secluded, quiet locations belie deadly, explosive force.

Teen-agers, either oblivious to or unaware of the lurking danger, choose them as hangouts.

The poor choice has led to at least three deaths and one serious injury in little more than a year on Ohio oil fields, authorities say.

"It's a problem that the industry's struggling to address," Thomas E. Stewart, executive vice president of the Ohio Oil and Gas Association, said yesterday.

"We're taxing ourselves, working hard, creating a fund to launch a public-awareness campaign," he said. "It's horrible that this happened first. I want to say that our message is, and will be, 'Stay away from oil-field equipment.' If your friend says, 'Meet me at the tanks,' say, 'No.' "

Family members said it was just like Paul E. Morrison, 19, to be attracted to someplace he shouldn't be. He was killed Friday evening when an oil tank exploded in Hocking County.

"He was happy-go-lucky, hyperactive and a daredevil," said his mother, Gail. "But he was a good kid. He joked and smiled all the time. He always said, 'Mom, I love you.' "

Morrison had attended Logan High School and Tri-County Joint Vocational School before leaving after the 11th grade, she said.

Authorities say Morrison, of Logan, was thrown more than 100 feet when a 3-ton storage tank containing about 800 gallons of crude oil, exploded Friday, rocketing the container 200 feet from its foundation, across Skinner Road and against a stand of trees.

Also injured was his fiend, Brandy Vollmer, 16, of Lancaster. Vollmer remained in serious condition last night in Grant Medical Center in Columbus, about 45 miles northwest of where the explosion occurred.

"They were probably just riding around," Mrs. Morrison said. "He smoked, and they probably figured he climbed up there and lit a cigarette or flicked a lighter.

"I was told Brandy was on the stairs. But don't ask me why they were up there. They were just kids."

Jim Vollmer, Brandy's uncle, said her father, Randy, disputes speculation that the two were at the storage tank partying. "She had just been with her dad about 7 p.m., about 15 minutes before the explosion," he said. "She couldn't have been partying."

In July 1997, two Muskingum County teens were killed when an oil tank exploded, hurling their bodies more than 200 feet. At the time, investigators speculated that Kristie Dawn Keaton, 15, and Joe Wolfe, 17, may have been atop the tank.

Yesterday, Harry Barber, an arson investigator with the state fire marshal's office, said collection of evidence at the Hocking County blast site had been completed, but no conclusions will be made until investigators interview Vollmer.

In the past, deputies have chased trespassers away from the well fields, which are fenced, locked and posted with warning signs, said Cpl. Don Jackson of the Hocking County Sheriff's Office.

"These well sites, not just here but all over the state, are party havens for the kids," he said. "They go out there and do their smoking and drinking and watching the stars."

Stewart said his association's public-education campaign will focus on safety, with some material borrowed from previous efforts in oil field-rich Oklahoma.

Ohio has 64,000 producing oil and gas wells, he said, and more than 250,000 bore holes. "They're small industrial facilities. There's nothing recreational about them," Stewart said. "But as more and more people move out to areas where there traditionally were only farms, you start to see more problems. It sets up a conflict."

Owners are not required to fence tanks, but many prudent operators do, Stewart said. All tanks, however, are supposed to be posted with warning signs.

Doug Kitchen, president of Chieftan Energy, said he frequently chases trespassers away from the 30-tank site, despite his signs, fences and locks.

Generally it is vapor from the tanks that pose the greatest threat. "They aren't just going to ignite by themselves," Stewart said.

Had the tank been full, it likely would have caught fire, but not exploded, Kitchen said. "The lower the tank, the higher the volatility. There are fumes at the top (of the tank.)"

He said it is difficult for the people to understand the oil industry, which is different from other high-exposure industries. Approaching the storage tanks, Kitchen said, "is the exact same thing as walking up to a gas pump and smoking a cigarette or lighting a lighter while you are pumping gas."

Stewart said that the Muskingum County blast, which is believed to have been linked to smoking, was horrific.

He said industry members are heartsick about the deaths.

"I have absolutely no idea why they're attracted," Stewart said. "But I can tell you I've pulled kids off pump jacks. It's dangerous, and when something like this happens, it's awful."

INDUSTRY: NAICS 213112 OIL & GAS INDUSTRY (90%);

COUNTRY: UNITED STATES (95%);

STATE: OHIO, USA (95%);

CITY: COLUMBUS, OH, USA (73%);

SUBJECT: OIL & GAS INDUSTRY (90%); INVESTIGATIONS (89%); HIGH
SCHOOLS (78%); ARSON (61%);

LOAD-DATE: August 17, 1998

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

GRAPHIC: Photo, Frank Hinchey., Logan Firefighter Duane Nakani, left, and Dan Goins,
an inspector with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Division of Oil and Gas,
inspect the site of a deadly explosion near Logan., Morrison

Gas tank explosion kills Four Corners teen

Albuquerque Tribune (New Mexico)

January 31, 2000, Monday

BYLINE: Staff and wire reports

SECTION: Local News; Pg. A3

LENGTH: 119 words

FLORA VISTA A gas tank explosion that killed one teen-ager and critically injured another was apparently caused when one of the boys threw a lighter into the 12,000-gallon tank, police said.

Shiloh Gallegos, 16, was killed in the explosion, and 15-year-old Christopher Gillaspay was airlifted to University Hospital in Albuquerque with burns to 25 to 30 percent of his body, a hospital spokesman said.

San Juan County sheriff's Sgt. Scott Eckstein said it appears the boys were playing atop the tank and one of them threw a lighter into it, causing it to explode Saturday. The tank was about one-third full with a fuel known as "drip gas," a liquid form of natural gas, investigators said.

LOAD-DATE: February 1, 2000

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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Sheriff: Teen lit cigarette atop crude oil tank, caused fatal blast

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

May 27, 2001, Sunday, BC cycle

LENGTH: 460 words

HEFLIN, La. (AP) - A teen-ager smoking atop a crude oil tank caused an explosion and fire that killed him and critically burned another teen-ager.

The flame from a lighter or cigarette apparently ignited fumes from vent tubes on the top of the 20-foot high tank, setting off the explosion and fire that killed Matthew Wall, 17, Sheriff Ted Riser said.

The top of the tank blew off and spilled hot oil, burning 18-year-old Marcus Jerome McKinney, Riser said. McKinney was hospitalized Sunday in critical condition. Kimberly Langwasser, 17, suffered minor injuries.

Jarvis Bridges, 18, said he was in a group of six teen-agers who had gone bowling Friday night and rode around a bit before someone suggested a visit to the oil field about 4:30 a.m. or 5 a.m. Saturday.

Bridges said he fell asleep in his car while his friends laughed, talked and listened to the radio. "I heard the explosion. I woke up and saw Marcus in flames," he said.

The fire spread from the nearly full 12,600-gallon tank where it started to two adjacent tanks in the field between Heflin and Sibley, one holding oil and another oil and saltwater.

Wall, of Heflin, died Saturday, at the scene. Kimberly Langwasser, 17, of Minden was thrown clear of the tank and suffered only minor injuries, Riser said.

McKinney, who graduated Thursday from Lakeside High in Sibley, was burned from the waist up, said Bridges, of Heflin.

Langwasser, of Minden, also was blown off the tank but was thrown clear and had only minor injuries, Riser said.

The land is fenced and gated, with "plenty of warning" against trespassing, Riser said. He did not know which company owns the tanks.

Investigators are considering whether to bring trespassing charges, he said.

The several hundred oil field sites in the parish are popular attractions for young people, Riser said. "We catch them in these places, find people under age drinking and different problems. We run them out, they come back or go to another place.

"From what I understand, some of these kids had been warned and had been run out of some oil field sites before."

Bridges and Kyle Langwasser, 18, of Minden put the flames out. Some of the others drove McKinney to Minden Medical Center, Bridges said, but he stayed behind because nobody had seen Wall.

"I couldn't leave Matt there."

Riser said the teens also drove Wall to the hospital, but Bridges said emergency crews found Wall's body.

Bridges said he knew what drew Wall to the tank field. "He liked going places like that in the morning 'cause he had this thing, he liked to go and see the sun rise," he said.

"I talked to his mama today," Bridges said Saturday. "And she said he went doing his favorite thing, watching the sun rise."

LOAD-DATE: May 28, 2001

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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Duson teen burned in oil tank explosion

SATURDAY State-Times/Morning Advocate (Baton Rouge, Louisiana)

December 1, 2001, Saturday METRO EDITION

BYLINE: ANGELA SIMONEAUX

SECTION: News; Pg. 3-B;1-B

LENGTH: 388 words

DUSON - A crude-oil storage tank exploded Friday afternoon and burned for several hours, injuring one person.

A 14-year-old boy who lives nearby was walking his dog in the fields surrounding the tank when it exploded.

The force of the explosion threw the boy more than 100 feet. He suffered second- and third-degree burns, State Police spokesman Trooper Willie Williams said.

A Lafayette Parish sheriff's deputy and an Acadia Parish sheriff's deputy arrived first, and were told by residents that the boy was near the tank, Lafayette sheriff's spokeswoman Donna Delahoussaye said. Deputies pulled the boy into a car and drove him away from the flames, she said. He was transported to a hospital, but his name and condition were unavailable late Friday pending notification of relatives, she said.

The tank, owned by Central Crude Storage Inc., holds 2,200 barrels of oil and was believed to be full when it exploded, Williams said. The site is referred to as the Bosco Field, but it is one tank standing alone in a cane field; there are no other tanks or offices nearby, Williams said.

Flames leapt hundreds of feet into the air, encased in a column of thick black smoke that could be seen from miles away. When the fire was put out, the smoke turned white, but the black smoke was still hanging in the air and visible for miles.

Foam from the Lafayette Regional Airport firefighting team's tanker extinguished the flames shortly before sunset. Firefighters and hazmat crews were standing late Friday by to make sure it didn't reignite, Williams said. No evacuations were ordered, because the closest houses were far enough away to escape damage or danger, Williams said.

However, La. 343, also known as North Ritchfield Road, was closed to through-traffic while the tank was burning.

Firefighters from the Judice, Duson, Branch, Scott and Rayne volunteer fire departments were on scene, as well as officers from the Duson Police Department, and State Police HazMat, Williams said.

As of late Friday, investigators had no idea why the tank exploded, Williams said. The investigation into the explosion won't start until the site is safe for investigators to reach, he added.

"The fire is out, and we're in the cool-down stages now," Williams said. "Once it's cool, the investigation will begin."

LOAD-DATE: December 3, 2001

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

Petroleum tank explodes, killing four teenagers

The Associated Press

April 12, 2003, Saturday, BC cycle

SECTION: Domestic News

LENGTH: 218 words

DATELINE: PALESTINE, Texas

A petroleum tank exploded as five teenagers were standing on top of it, killing four, authorities said.

Three of the teens were pronounced dead Friday night at the scene of the explosion in the Long Lake area, about 10 miles west of Palestine in eastern Texas.

A fourth died Saturday afternoon at a hospital where she was airlifted following the blast, which occurred about 10 p.m. Friday. A fifth was treated for minor injuries and released.

Authorities said the blast threw some of the teens between 50 and 75 yards away, police said. The tank, owned by Key Production Company Inc., had about 6 inches to a foot of oil in the bottom.

Investigators were trying to determine what ignited the blast.

A witness said he saw flames shoot up about 100 feet in the air. Vernel Smith, who lives about a mile from the scene, said she felt her house shake.

"It rocked my house from front to back," Smith said. "I thought my water heater had exploded or something."

Lt. Chuck Franklin said the teenagers were camping at a cabin with their grandfather Friday night, and at some point went for a walk and ended up at the tank.

Killed instantly in explosion were Justin Rober, 15, Pless Kropp, 14 and Jessica Ross, 15; Amanda Ross, 14, was pronounced dead Saturday. All were from Mount Enterprise.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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Two injured in oil tank explosion
The Associated Press State & Local Wire
September 6, 2003, Saturday, BC cycle

SECTION: State and Regional

LENGTH: 134 words

DATELINE: GAYSPORT, Ohio

An oil storage tank exploded Saturday in southeast Ohio, hospitalizing two men with head injuries, the Muskingum County sheriff's office said.

One of the men apparently climbed on top of the tank and lit a cigarette, setting off the explosion, sheriff's dispatcher Kim Hambell said.

The two McConnellsville-area men were taken by helicopter to Ohio State University Medical Center in Columbus, he said.

Steven Smith, 22, was in serious condition and Craig Long, 21, was in fair condition Saturday night, said Tai Shamsheer, administrative manager at the hospital.

The tank, near this village about 60 miles southeast of Columbus, was owned by J&D Gas & Oil, Hambell said. The two men were not believed to be employees, he said.

A telephone listing for the company could not be found.

LOAD-DATE: September 7, 2003

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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Two die of burns in tank explosion

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

May 16, 2005, Monday, BC cycle

LENGTH: 357 words

DATELINE: RIPLEY, Okla.

Two Payne County men died of severe burns after an oil storage tank explosion on private property west of Ripley over the weekend, authorities said Monday.

Four men ages 18, 19 and 20 were on the oil lease when the tank exploded Saturday morning, Payne County Undersheriff Noel Bagwell said.

"We started an investigation to see what caused the fire, as well as why the people were there," he said.

Bagwell said the two severely burned men were flown to a Tulsa hospital after a 911 call came in to the Cushing Fire Department's ambulance service shortly after 4 a.m. Saturday.

Bagwell said he was advised by the state Medical Examiner's Office early Sunday morning that one victim, Phillip Eugene Gosney, 19, of Perkins, had died.

Another victim, a 20-year-old Stillwater man whose name was not released pending notification of relatives, died Monday afternoon, Bagwell said.

He said a third victim, a 20-year-old Perkins man whose name was not released, had burns on his hands and forearms and was taken to the Stillwater Medical Center.

Bagwell said he did not have any information on the man's current condition.

A fourth man, an 18-year-old from Perkins who was at the scene of the explosion, was not injured, said Bagwell, who did not release the man's name.

That man "took all three burn victims to a house in Ripley five or six miles away," where 911 was called, Ripley Fire Chief Thomas Novotny said Monday.

"He seems to have kept his head the whole time he was there. It is amazing for an 18-year-old kid.

"You don't find many 18-year-old kids that keep their head and not panic" in such a situation, Novotny said.

Eight Ripley firefighters in four firetrucks were at the scene of the tank explosion for about two hours, Novotny said. He said the oil storage tank was destroyed.

"We were able to shut off the oil supply. That's how we put it out" with the use of firefighting foam, Novotny said.

No firefighters were injured, and no homes were damaged, he said.

"We are still investigating the cause" of the blast, he said Monday.

Information from: Tulsa World, <http://www.tulsaworld.com>

LOAD-DATE: May 17, 2005

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

Boy ignites crude oil, dies in explosion

Fort Worth Star-Telegram (Texas)

December 19, 2006 Tuesday

BYLINE: BRETT HOFFMAN, STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

SECTION: B; Pg. 5

LENGTH: 296 words

A tank of crude oil burns near Springtown. The blast killed a 14-year-old boy.

SPRINGTOWN -- A 14-year-old boy was killed in a fiery explosion after he ignited a tank of crude oil Monday afternoon, authorities said.

The boy climbed on top of the tank, lifted the lid and dropped a lighted object inside, causing an explosion, Parker County Fire Marshal Shawn Scott said.

The explosion destroyed the tank and spilled the oil, which continued to burn.

The teenager was with a 15-year-old boy, who was treated for minor injuries at Weatherford Regional Medical Center and released, officials said.

Neither boy had been identified by late Monday.

The tank, owned by Canadian oil company EnCana, is near a well that produces both oil and gas. It contained about 45,000 gallons of crude oil, officials said.

"It was oil that they stored until they can come back and collect it," Scott said.

The 15-year-old told sheriff's deputies that his companion lit a piece of paper, Parker County Sheriff Larry Fowler said. The boy told deputies that he was standing below the tank when the oil was ignited.

"They went up to this tank ... and messed around," Fowler said. "It ignited and killed one of them."

The tank is about two miles west of the intersection of Texas 199 and Farm Road 51, just outside Springtown, officials said. Firefighters responded to the call about 3:40 p.m.

Students were initially kept inside Springtown High School to protect them from the smoke.

Officials used a Reverse 911 call to alert residents to stay indoors when possible because of the smoke until about 2 1/2 hours after the explosion.

At least three fire departments responded, including Springtown and Poolville.

Correspondent Gale Bradford contributed to this report.

Brett Hoffman, 817-390-7707 hoffman@star-telegram.com

LOAD-DATE: December 19, 2006

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

Teenager remains in critical condition after oil tank explosion

Oklahoman
Published: March 14, 2007

A 15-year-old boy was in critical condition Tuesday after an explosion and fire burned more than 45 percent of his body, an Oklahoma City Fire Department spokesman said.

Ethan Baker was near an oil tank battery at SW 160 and Pennsylvania Avenue about 7:45 p.m. Monday when it exploded and caught fire, Dep. Chief Tony Young said. It wasn't clear what caused the explosion, but it took crews an hour to put out the fire.

Baker was taken to Integris Baptist Hospital with second- and third-degree burns to his upper body, Young said.

"Baker still has some tissue burning, but the doctors think he is going to make it," said Young, who had just been to the hospital to see Baker.

Officials identify teens killed in tank explosion

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

May 23, 2007

SECTION: STATE AND REGIONAL

LENGTH: 96 words

DATELINE: MERCEDES, Texas

Police on Wednesday released the names of three teenagers killed in a fuel storage tank explosion.

The May 18 explosion killed Alejandro Torres, 17; Luis Herrera, 16, and Pedro Gonzalez, 16, all of Mercedes.

Hidalgo County Sheriff Lupe Trevino has said footprints and an undone latch indicate one of the teens climbed onto the abandoned tank and opened the top.

Officials are trying to determine what sparked the explosion at the abandoned tank in a field.

The parents of Torres and Gonzalez have filed a wrongful death lawsuit against Ventex Oil and Gas Inc., the owner of the tank.

LOAD-DATE: May 24, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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2 teens killed when oil tank explodes, throws them 150 feet

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

June 25, 2007 Monday 3:50 PM GMT

SECTION: STATE AND REGIONAL

LENGTH: 104 words

DATELINE: STEAMBOAT SPRINGS Colo.

Two teens who were jumping on an oil storage tank were killed when the tank exploded and hurled them 150 feet, the Rio Blanco County Sheriff's Department said Monday.

Rio Blanco County Undersheriff Michael Joos said the teens were killed Saturday night at a party in the Routt National Forest, about 135 miles west of Denver.

The victims were identified as Samuel Hedemark, 17, of Phippsburg and Christopher King Fuller, 19, of Yampa.

It was not immediately clear how big the tank was, what kind of oil it contained and how much oil was in it.

Joos said a dog was also killed in the explosion, but no other injuries were reported.

LOAD-DATE: June 26, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire

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2 teens killed in oil-holding tank explosion

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

November 1, 2009 Sunday 4:48 PM GMT

SECTION: STATE AND REGIONAL

LENGTH: 311 words

DATELINE: CARNES Miss.

Autopsy results are expected Monday for two teenagers killed in a weekend explosion at an oil-holding tank in south Forrest County.

Authorities say 16-year-old Devon Byrd and 18-year-old Wade White died after the explosion around 4 a.m. Saturday near White's home in Carnes.

Byrd was a sophomore at Forrest County Agricultural High School and White had just graduated.

Their bodies were found between 50 and 75 feet from the oil tank, Forrest County Sheriff Billy McGee said.

He said the tank was thought to have contained less than 20 gallons of oil.

"They'd sold most of the oil out of the tank," the sheriff said. "That's what a representative for the pipeline said."

Holding tanks are more dangerous when they're empty because of the gases that remain inside, the sheriff said, citing information from pipeline representatives.

Authorities and the teens' relatives aren't sure why they were out at that time of morning or what may have caused the explosion, the Hattiesburg American newspaper reported.

Wanda White, Wade's mother, said she and her husband, Phillip, were awakened by a noise early in the morning. After discovering the boys weren't in the house, they found the fire not far from their home.

"They were two wonderful kids," she said. "We just can't understand what happened."

Wanda White said the oil structure had been at the location for three or four years and that similar ones are scattered around the community, located several miles off Mississippi 13.

"Those were two awesome kids who would have made a really big difference in the world," she said.

Shirley Byrd said her son was involved in the Future Farmers of America and talked about going into forestry after graduating.

"He really loved that," she said. "He loved working with tractors, being outside, hunting and fishing."

Information from: The Hattiesburg American, <http://www.hattiesburgamerican.com>

LOAD-DATE: November 2, 2009

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newswire