

Welding Safely Fatality File



3 dead, another injured after fire caused by welding accident.

CLOVIS, N.M. (KRQE) □ It appears a welding accident led to a deadly fire in Clovis. Three people were killed one was seriously injured.

State Fire Marshals were at the scene Monday of the deadly fire in Clovis.

□This is one of the largest losses of life we□ve seen,□ said Clovis Police Captain Roman Romero.

The three deceased are John Sandoval, 54; Robert Elebario, 51; and Billie Grabowsky, 52.

Rogelio Hernandez was the only one who survived the fire. He□s being treated at Plains Regional Medical Center in Clovis.

□I asked him what happened and what does he remember, and he said they were just in the shop welding a piece of pipe to a car and they noticed the gas can nearby had caught a spark,□ explained Rogelio□s niece, Casandra Hernandez.

She says they threw the gas can at the wall, which caught the insulation and ultimately, the whole building on fire.

□He said everything happened so quick, all they knew was that they needed to get out because they were inhaling all of that smoke,□ she said.

Stuck inside the shed, they began trying to push out an air conditioning unit. Nearby neighbors heard yelling and ran to help.

□They got the unit out but then they started pulling him out and he was trying to help one of his other friends out and he couldn□t get his friend out,□ Casandra Hernandez said.

Rogelio Hernandez was the only one to make it out alive. He is expected to be okay.