

## No Injuries In Parker Co. Gas Pipeline Explosion

### [Parker County Gas Well Explosion](#)

(AP/ CBS 11 News) PARKER COUNTY, Texas All workers have been accounted for and there are no injuries from a massive gas well and pipeline explosion on a Skelly Bellvieu pipeline in Parker County.

A massive fire ball and thick black smoke could be seen miles from the explosion. It happened about one mile north of Lake Weatherford, 30 miles west of Fort Worth.

According to Parker County Sheriff Larry Fowler, at around 2 p.m., a back-hoe, operated by a third party contractor working in the area, struck the gas pipeline while digging to locate another line. The pipeline stretches from Interstate-20 to Bowie.



Parker County Fire Marshal Sean Scott says two lines are involved. One line is an 8-inch line that carried propylene, a type of natural gas liquid used to produce plastic. The other line is a petroleum product. The propylene line belongs to Conoco Phillips.

"When they tapped into this line, it began spewing and they began running," Bob Hopkins, a spokesman for the Weatherford Fire Department. He said about 15 workers were in the area when the accident happened.

There are no homes directly next to the gas pipeline, but the some nearby homes were rocked by a huge explosion.

"We were outside watching him play, and we heard this big explosion," said witness Jessica Neal. "There was a big mushroom cloud and we felt the vibration."

The intense heat prevented fire crews from attempting to put the fire out right away.

"Conoco Phillips tells me it's shut down," said Sheriff Fowler. "And it will burn itself out now. Once it burns itself out, we'll be able to get in there. You can get any where near it right now. It is way too intense."

At least half-a dozen vehicles, pickups and heavy equipment were burned or seriously damaged.

"The proximity of the trucks in the area is incredible," said witness Lori Gouge. "They are all charred like a meteor fell on them."

Some power lines were also destroyed in the fire, but electricity was quickly restored, Hopkins said.

The emergency command center plans to stay in the area until the fire burns out of the lines.

The area where the fire is burning is in the middle of the Barnett Shale, a large natural gas field.