

My wife and I and our 4 children were all home when the explosion occurred. My 2 daughters were on our front porch putting on their roller blades and had just asked us permission to go over the Martinez house to see if Jaelyn could play outside. I was sitting in my office and my wife was laying on the couch when the explosion occurred. It was very loud and horrific, we knew right away something terrible had happened. I thought it was probably an accident over at the new apartment complex but as soon as I exited my front door I could see the Martinez house was completely destroyed and flattened. I immediately told my wife to call 911 and I rushed over to see if anyone needed help. I quickly noticed Jaelyn's brother running around screaming and he did not look injured. I asked him who was inside and I confirmed that it was just his mom, dad, and uncle and that Jaelyn was not home. I then entered the home through the East side and was in what I thought to be the living room of the Martinez home. I yelled for anyone and pushed some debris around and quickly looked around but did not see or hear anyone. I could see a TV still mounted on a wall and debris was everywhere. I was only in the home for 15-30 seconds at most and then crawled back out and headed back towards the back of the house. I could see the construction crew heading toward the house and I noticed a small amount of smoke starting southwest corner of the home. I yelled to the construction crew to call 911 and get water or a fire extinguisher. I could hear Erin screaming right away and she was quickly located along the southern edge of the house. I could see she was pinned by the roof at the waist and was hanging nearly upside down. She was conscious but bleeding and in a lot of visible pain. The construction crew then drove a forklift over to the house and went through the fence up to the edge of the house. I helped the crew get the forklift into position to lift the roof off of Erin by guiding the driver and forks into the correct location. The forklift was initially unable to free her though and they were struggling to get the forklift into the correct position to lift the roof off of her. I heard Erin scream in pain when the forklift was lifting up and down. Myself and others began to rip and pull the debris from around her with our hands. I attempted to lift the piece of roof off of her with my shoulders and back but it was too heavy. At this time I noticed the fire was starting to grow rapidly and I knew we were running out of time. I then jumped over the back fence of the neighbor to the west and turned on his garden hose and began to spray the fire with water. Within probably 30 seconds the fire was so large and hot I was starting to get burned and I wasn't even able to get close enough to spray it anymore. I was also unable to get back into the Martinez's back yard due to the wall of flames between the two homes. I then ran out of the neighbor's yard and jumped their fence to the north and was back on Twilight Ave at that point. By this time Police and Fire Department was onsite and had begun pushing people back away from the home and I was unable to get back to where Erin and the construction crew were at. I found out a few minutes later from a police officer that she did make it out and was taken to the hospital.

Ben Chapman

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

17-02613

Kevin Egan

~~Colorado Springs Co 80918~~

He was sitting in the construction trailer
Felt a big boom. Could tell what
direction it came from. Initially
saw no smoke & no fire. Saw debris
flying through the air saw roof on the
ground. No fire no smoke at that time.
He never saw anyone come out of the house.
~~Saw~~ Heard woman was trapped
Went to go get a Fork lift but someone
already gotten one before him. Pulled
her out. Smoke started on West side
of house. He called 911 at 4:42 to 4:45
or so. They pulled her out but ^{out} flame
spread west to East. Already fully
engulfed with 6 to 7 min. Like a
"fireball" (could feel the heat from
200 yards away. Wind blowing
East. Boy was in disbelief. Said his
Dad was dead. Took him to his
construction trailer. The boy
was crying

17-02613

Jim Nelson (DOB [REDACTED])

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Saw the boy. Took him away. Took him across the street to a neighbour house to keep him out of the glass. The boy kept wanting to run back in. Saw the building collapsed on foundation. Saw construction workers trying to rescue ~~her~~ woman from underneath collapsed roof. Felt the ground move when explosion went off. Nothing more

17-02613

Patrick Nelson DOB [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Saw all the walls on the house exploded. Heard one big boom + a crash. Debris and glass blowing out everywhere. Construction guys ran towards the house. He saw a small boy crawling up off the ground. (Right ^{South Side} middle) started walking and appeared disoriented screamed saying mom, Dad + uncle still in the house. Dad and uncle are in the basement. Saw smoke on NW of house afterwards. Where the roof collapsed on the ground, woman was trapped under roof (around South middle). Construction worker brought fork lift + lifted up the ^{roof of} house. Ran around front of house + realized 50% engulfed w/ fire. When he came back around So Side they had gotten woman out.

Heard one big bang initially then subsequent pops like tires popping + popping ammo

The boy was wearing no shoes, no socks a T-shirt + shorts. He was taken to trailer. She was red + burned on 80% of her body skin hanging off of her arms. Med arrived at

Pattie Dixon

From: Theo Abkes
Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2017 1:04 AM
To: Pattie Dixon
Cc: Pascale Pring; Bruce Nickerson; Bryce Borders; Debbie Montgomery
Subject: Mark

Pattie,

Per our conversation tonight,

I received a call from Mark on Fri. April 14th at 7:16 PM stating his water heater was overheating & was dumping hot water. I told Mark if it was me I would shut it off. I called him back at 7:34 to confirm and not to take a chance with a gas water heater. The next day April 15th at approx.. 3:00 PM I was driving by his home & Mark was in the street talking to his neighbor. I stopped & he stated that he purchased a new water heater & it was installed & working well. Mark also said he got a price on just the gas valve for his current water heater but didn't want to take a chance on replacing just the gas valve. He also stated that he saw an ad in the paper that morning for a 50 gal. water heater on sale for \$500.00 so he was bound to be to buy a new heater. (not sure if anyone helped him install it) On the morning of April 17th Mark came into the office & stated it was doing the same thing & asked me if maybe the gas pressure might be too high & showed me a picture on his phone where there was a burned spot on his insulation in the basement. (approx.. 6"x6" area & not sure if this photo was from the first water heater) I advised Mark to call the gas co. That day Mark asked to take time off to see his Uncle who only has a short time left. Mark was gone most of the day & I believe it was around 4:15 when he stated he was going to meet his brother-in-law Joey Erwin who is a master plumber to look at his water heater. I went to the town Hall to pick-up mail & headed home. While driving home I saw a large cloud of smoke & when I got closer saw it was Mark's house. Michelle Powers called me 5:03 if I could call Mark, I did & it went straight to voice message. I also received SCADA messages at 4:59 pm that water was being used at a high rate. This is unbelievable.

Theo