

**From:** [Michael Hiller](#)  
**To:** [Sara Lyons](#); [Patrick Warren](#)  
**Cc:** [Sean Lynum](#); [Kim West](#); [Ashley Horton](#); [Stephanie Shaw](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Report of Incident and Request for NTSB To Investigate  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 17, 2024 2:11:48 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image007.png](#)

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Hey Sara.

Are you planning to respond to Mr. Haynes? If so, please coordinate any response with GC and the executive secretariat's office. This item needs to be tracked.

Mike H.

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**From:** Sara Lyons [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 17, 2024 1:55 PM  
**To:** Patrick Warren [REDACTED]; Michael Hiller [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Sean Lynum [REDACTED]; Kim West [REDACTED]; Ashley Horton [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Report of Incident and Request for NTSB To Investigate

Pat and Mike,

For awareness, we're looking into the below assertion. We were informed of this accident at the time it occurred but were told that the injuries were minor and may not require overnight hospitalization.

While I don't think we could initiate an effective investigation at this late date, we will gather supporting documentation for this event as we develop the Jackson, MS report. We are already looking into Atmos' incident reporting practices based on preliminary information obtained during the Jackson investigation to date. This information, if confirmed, will be added to that report to determine if there is a pattern of behavior.

Thanks,  
-Sara

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**From:** Kevin Haynes [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 17, 2024 1:04 PM  
**To:** eyewitnessreport [REDACTED]; Sara Lyons [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Report of Incident and Request for NTSB To Investigate

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## To Whom It May Concern:

We represent the family of Sergio A. Valdez. Sergio was severely burned as a result of an explosion on January 20, 2024 in his single-family home situated in whole or part at [REDACTED], Carrollton, Texas 75006. Sergio died as a result of his burn injuries less than one month later, despite extensive efforts by the medical providers at Parkland Hospital Burn Center.

The Carrollton Fire and Rescue Department determined that the point of origin was the hall bathroom, the heat source was the lighting of a cigarette, and that the material ignited was natural gas. It determined that the ignition sequence as follows: “A [n]atural gas leak infiltrated the sewer system[,] leaked into the shower drain[,] and was ignited by a cigarette.” See Carrollton Fire Rescue Report for Incident # 0000987, at 9. It thus concluded that the “area of origin was located to the exterior of the structure.” See *id.* at 3. Gas service was provided to the home by Atmos Energy Corporation, 5430 Lyndon B. Johnson Freeway, Dallas, Texas 75240. On information and belief, Atmos Energy Corporation began remediation work at or near the home shortly after the explosion.

We understand that the NTSB is not investigating this incident. NTSB did, however, investigate a highly similar incident in 2018, which occurred at a single-family home in neighboring Dallas, Texas, for which Atmos also provided gas service, and which also caused a fatality. See *Atmos Energy Corporation Natural Gas-Fueled Explosion, Dallas, Texas, February 23, 2018*, PB2021-

100901, Publication Type NTSB/PAR-21/01 (NTSB 2021)  
(<https://www.nts.gov/news/press-releases/Pages/mr20210112.aspx>).

We believe that NTSB’s involvement will greatly facilitate the investigation and will serve to promote safety in the pipeline and natural gas distribution sectors.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Kevin Haynes  
Attorney for the Family of Sergio A. Valdez

**Kevin Haynes**  
Partner



2925 Richmond Ave. | Suite 1560 | Houston, TX 77098



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