



Sonoma County Explosion Injures Four

by [John Demas](#) on 12/10/10

An explosion in Sonoma County injured four people Wednesday at the Redwoods Conference Grounds near Occidental. The explosion occurred when septic workers using a jackhammer created a spark that ignited methane in the septic system. One of the victims suffered third-degree burns and the others suffered first and second-degree burns. One victim also suffered an eye injury. Two of the victims were transported to [Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital](#) and the other two were taken to the [Palm Drive Hospital](#) in Sebastopol.

Work injuries can often present complicated legal issues. Most work injuries are covered by the workers' compensation system that has its own set of rules. Under workers' compensation, an employee is entitled under an insurance policy put in place by his or her employer to certain benefits including medical expenses, temporary disability for time missed from work, and permanent disability based on the extent of the injury. Workers' compensation provides coverage regardless of who was at fault for causing the injury. In some situations, the workers' compensation system is the "exclusive" remedy for the injured worker, meaning that the worker must accept what is offered by workers' compensation and cannot sue his or her employer or a co-employee for civil damages.

California Personal Injury Attorneys

In some cases, however, a work injury accident gives rise to a liability claim against a "third-party", that is, some person or entity other than the worker's employer or co-employee. For instance, in the above scenario, if the septic workers were responsible for causing the explosion and worked for Company A, and one of the persons injured was someone at the worksite who worked for company B, the person working for Company B would have the right

to sue Company A for civil damages in addition to making a workers' compensation claim with Company B. If a bystander who was not on the job was injured, he would not have a workers' compensation claim, but would still have the right to sue Company A.

The compensation an injured worker receives under a civil claim includes many things that cannot be recovered under a workers' compensation claim, including pain and suffering, and can result in a much bigger recovery to the injured worker. Accordingly, a thorough investigation should be performed any time a worker is seriously injured on the job to determine who was entirely or partially at fault. Anyone seriously injured in a work accident should a qualified Northern California Personal Injury Attorney to investigate the case and determine all of the available legal options.

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The best [California personal injury](#) lawyers will always provide a free and comprehensive consultation to the victims and their families.

The [Demas & Rosenthal](#) personal injury law firm is not currently representing anyone mentioned in this article at the time it was posted. If you were involved in this incident or a similar incident and have questions as to your legal rights and options, call us or another well recognized and respected personal injury law firm.