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**Explosion Attorney Rob Ammons Says His Landmark 82.5 Million Dollar Verdict  
May Show Juries Are Ready to Start Punishing Energy Companies**

Tuesday's record-setting 82.5 million dollar verdict in Harris county for the death of a single man killed by a Cleburne [natural gas explosion](#) could be the beginning of a trend.

Houston explosion attorney Rob Ammons believes some juries are doing what federal regulators can't do, hitting big business where it hurts when they don't prioritize worker and environmental safety over profits.

"In the wake of two recent Texas natural gas line explosions and the spill in the Gulf, I believe people are sick and tired of the mess," says Houston explosion attorney Rob Ammons. "When companies prioritize profits over responsibility, safety and respect for the environment, I think juries are going to push back in the only way they can- by awarding precedent setting verdicts for hard working claimants."

Joshua Wade Petrie, 27, was attempting to start a hot oil heater May 25, 2007, when the heater exploded. A day later the man died, leaving behind a widow, Candee Petrie, and three minor children. Mr. Petrie's father, Mark Petrie, was also a claimant.

Petrie's attorneys, Rob Ammons and Bennett Midlo of the Houston-based [Ammons Law Firm](#) argued in court the natural gas processing plant and its equipment were negligently refurbished, as Hanover had agreed to do.

"Hanover Compression sold the gas processing plant in Hood County to Quicksilver Resources in March of 2005," says Ammons. " Hanover was supposed to fully refurbish the plant and the hot oil heater. Hanover failed to refurbish and upgrade the heater to the applicable current industry standards and that is what caused the explosion."

The trial in Judge Robert Schaffer's Harris County Judicial District Court #152 encompassed the three-year anniversary of Petrie's death.

Rob Ammons is Board Certified in Personal Injury Trial Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, in addition to being Board Certified in Civil Law by the National Board of Trial Advocacy. Rob Ammons' law practice, The Ammons Law Firm, is located in Houston, Texas. The Ammons Law Firm practice is exclusively personal injury law, handling such cases as: tire defects, oil rig explosions, truck accidents, plant explosions, refinery accidents, wrongful death, post-collision fires, seat belt defects, airbag defects, SUV rollovers and workplace negligence.

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