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Plant Explosion Devastates Texas Town

WACO, Texas (AP) - At least five people are in intensive care after a fertilizer plant explosion in West.

A spokesman at Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center in Waco says the facility received 98 patients, including the five in intensive care. Another 30 have serious injuries, including orthopedic and head trauma.

Providence Health Center in Waco treated 65 patients from the explosion, admitting 12. A spokeswoman says those patients had broken bones, cuts, head injuries, minor burns and some breathing problems.

Two patients are being treated at Parkland Hospital in Dallas.

Wednesday's fire and explosion killed between five and 15 people and injured more than 160 others.

WEST, Texas (AP) - Rescuers are searching through the rubble in the Central Texas town of West after a deadly explosion at a fertilizer plant.

Around the town of about 2,800 people, some buildings were still smoldering Thursday morning. Others had their masonry ripped apart. Meanwhile, firefighters were combing through an apartment building.

Overnight, Waco police Sgt. William Patrick Swanton said authorities were still working to remove people who were trapped in the wreckage from Wednesday's blast.

Authorities estimate the explosion killed between five and 15 people and injured more than 160 others.

WEST, Texas (AP) - The Texas fertilizer plant where an explosion injured more than 100 people and killed an unknown number of others was cited for failing to obtain or to qualify for a permit in 2006.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality investigated West Fertilizer on June 20, 2006, after receiving a complaint June 9 of a strong ammonia smell. Agency records show that the person who lodged the complaint said the ammonia smell was "very bad last night" and lingered until after he or she went to bed.

Wednesday night's explosion leveled the plant and severely damaged other area buildings. Authorities say people were killed, but they don't know how many.

Authorities were still trying to evacuate area homes early Thursday morning.