

STATE OF WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
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March 10, 2016

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UPDATE: Investigation into Seattle natural gas explosion continues

OLYMPIA, Wash. – Today pipeline safety engineers from the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission continue their investigation into yesterday’s explosion in Seattle.

The UTC investigators are interviewing witnesses and first responders and collecting evidence to determine the probable cause of the explosion and fire that occurred early Wednesday in the 200 block of N. 85th St near Greenwood Ave North in the Greenlake area of Seattle.

At the commission’s public meeting today, Chairman Dave Danner made a brief statement on the explosion saying, “Our thoughts are with the brave first responders who were injured in the line of duty and we appreciate their service to the community.”

The UTC has not yet made a determination as to the cause of the explosion, or the source of the leak. The investigators’ primary focus is to ensure public safety in the Greenwood area, as well as, the safety of natural gas infrastructure statewide.

The UTC is coordinating with PSE, the City of Seattle, and the western region of the U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.

Established by the Legislature in 1955, the UTC’s Pipeline Safety Program regulates the safety practices of 31 pipeline operators and conducts safety inspections on more than 41,000 miles of natural gas and hazardous-liquid pipelines in Washington. The UTC also regulates the private, investor-owned natural gas utilities in the state.

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