

# San Bruno explosion: Some victims identified

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Chimneys stand without their homes after an explosion and fire that killed four people, injured dozens and destroyed 37 homes.

A full day after the natural gas explosion and inferno that turned a San Bruno neighborhood into ash, the wreckage was still too hot for people to be let back in - but families of some of four people killed in the blaze got the news they had dreaded.

Investigators with search-and-rescue dogs spent Friday picking through the debris for more fatalities, with no new finds. The list of government agencies investigating the blast grew as a National Transportation Safety Board team arrived to take over the probe.

Representatives of Pacific Gas and Electric Co. said they did not know what caused a 30-inch, high-pressure gas pipeline to rupture at about 6:15 p.m. Thursday, setting off a firestorm that destroyed 37 homes in the Crestmoor neighborhood west of Interstate 280 and badly damaged eight others. Scores of people were treated at hospitals, and at least three were in critical condition Friday.

Officials said they had no estimate yet on the financial cost of the disaster. But the personal cost was immense.

The San Mateo County coroner identified two of the dead as Jacqueline Greig, 44, and her 13-year-old daughter, Janessa, whose house at 1670 Claremont Drive was destroyed.

Greig worked for the California Public Utilities Commission for 21 years and was a member of its Division of Ratepayer Advocates. She also was listed as a member of the natural gas committee on the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates.

"It's really unbelievably ironic," said Mindy Spatt, spokeswoman for TURN, an independent advocacy group for utility customers.

Marcel Hawiger, an advocate with TURN, said he knew Greig for a decade.

"She has been a tireless and wonderful advocate for consumers for many years. I'm just devastated - this is such a tragedy," Hawiger said.

Greig reviewed data that PG&E used to justify gas rates and reviewed energy projects to see if they were cost effective. One of the projects she was involved with was how PG&E went about charging for inspection of transmission pipes.

"She was such a nice person," Hawiger said, "She was always such a pleasure to work with."

Also killed was 20-year-old Jessica Morales, the coroner said.

The coroner has not identified the fourth victim. But relatives of 81-year-old Elizabeth Torres, whose house at 1660 Claremont Drive was leveled, fear it may be her. A body was found outside her home, and the coroner was checking dental records, relatives said.