



## **Governor Bill Richardson Monitors Gallup Oil Refinery Explosion**

**Multi-agency response quickly deals with fire & injuries, determines explosion was accidental**

For Immediate Release

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SANTA FE- Governor Bill Richardson today is monitoring developments in the aftermath of a serious explosion that happened at approximately 9 a.m. today at the Giant Oil Refinery near Gallup. The New Mexico Department of Public Safety and Department of Homeland Security responded to the incident to assist McKinley County officials on scene, and personnel at the state's Emergency Operations Center, already activated in response to last weekend's severe weather, are closely following the situation.

"Our response and communications systems worked the way they're designed, and we were quickly able to determine this situation was caused by an unfortunate accident, and is not considered to be a terrorist incident," said Governor Richardson. "I want to commend State Police and McKinley County officials for their prompt response, and our thoughts and prayers are with the injured and their families."

The State Environment Department is also standing by to provide assistance, if required.

The explosion and fire occurred in a portion of the plant that deals specifically with propane and butane. The fire was quickly contained, and other tanks were cooled, and were not in danger. Initial reports indicate that 6 people were injured, 4 critically. No other condition reports were available. Refinery officials say there will be no disruption in gas deliveries or availability.

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