THE BATTALION Page 10

State

Grain elevator explosion kills three, injures many

United Press International CORPUS CHRISTI—A public grain elevator located in a heavy shift change Tuesday, killing three

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3:10 p.m. as workers from the day shift were leaving and those on the evening shift were arriving.

Officials on the scene said at least six silos exploded, and addi-

men and injuring many em-ployees. The explosion occurred about the grain dust you can have more explosions," said Assistant Fire Chief Victor R. Garcia. "We have about 11 units there and at least 50 men. There are probably more be-cause a lot of off-duty men came in

to help. The Nueces County medical examiners' office confirmed three men were dead.

Overcome with GOOD

We have identified two of them but have not reached their

next of kin, so we can't release their names," the examiners' office said. "The third has not been identified."

Army and Coast Guard helicopters hovered near the scene to assist in rescue efforts, a spokes-man said. Many employees were believed still trapped in the elevator

'It was a very disastrous explomile away sion," said Sgt. Jack Clemons, a Nueces County sheriff's deputy.

The industrial area around the elevator outside of Corpus Christi city limits was evacuated, Clemons said.

Sandy Frazier, a spokeswoman for the Memorial Medical Center, said 22 people had been brought into the hospital, one of them critically injured. "We have had 22 admissions,

19 are being treated in E.R. (emergency room)," she said. 'One victim is in critical condition; seven are burn victims. We understand the fire is still under way, and we should expect more injuries.

Clemons said ambulances were dispatched from Corpus Christi and neighboring Robstown and Portland to care for the injured.

Several ambulances were called he said. "The headhouse (where all t back to the scene, he said. All available deputies were on the scene and the civil defense had

been called in to assist with rescue operations, he said. Witnesses at the scene said

the area by helicopter. James Roberts, employee Hatcher Port Iron Works, loca 'We went right over there when we heard the explosion," said Darrell Johnson, assistant manager of Producers Grain Port Terminal, located about a mile

"It was pretty loud," he s "It shook this whole build When I heard it go up, I did know exactly what it was. As a as I heard the noise of the em sion — it sounded like two three explosions, just kind ofn bled — I looked out the doora saw the smoke coming. All Icon see was smoke.

The U.S. Department of Ag culture in Washington said eg federal grain inspectors we the elevator but all had b accounted for. The agency did say why the inspectors were at elevator, owned by the Nues County Navigation District.

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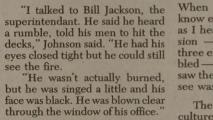
child killer. The case of L entally retarde issing April 2. Monday to Atlan task force. Rog

March 30. Rogers is one olacks who ha ince a police "ge vas started a others have been Timothy Hill Bubba" Dunca vas mentally re eported missing ong as three day last seen, Dep Eldrin Bell said Bell said th mergency plan hrowing up searching cars aunching an allvicinity where t seen, is to "find

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Johnson said the force of the blast was so strong, huge pieces of cement were littering the area. "It blew one big piece of ce-ment, about 10 to 15 feet wide and

just as long onto a nearby road,"

Witnesses criticize state embalming bil

United Press International AUSTIN — A proposed embalming bill brought 113 witnesses to House Economic Development Committee hearing, many of the criticizing the reinstatement of embalming dead bodies that remain

unburied for 24 hours as well as those that will be cremated. Carol Barger of the Consumers Union said the only purpose i requiring embalming is to encourage open caskets and therefore nor impressive and expensive caskets and funerals.

The bill would permit the body to be refrigerated if it is m embalmed, but Johnny B. Rogers, general counsel of the Texas Fue-al Directors Association, said, "very few funeral homes have refrigertion facilities.

"Don't let anybody tell you that this is one big glaring consum issue," Rogers said. "Ninety-nine percent of the people who comeint Texas funeral homes want the traditional funeral with embalming" Dr. Charles Petty, chief medical examiner for Dallas County, whose office handles 3,000 bodies a year, told the committee the

embalming retards decomposition. Sen. Lloyd Doggett, D-Austin, an opponent of compu

embalming, pointed out that current law does not prevent embalming for health purposes or for examination of the body.

Dr. James Reveley, a dentist, mortician and owner of a funera home in San Antonio, told the committee that embalming presents great a danger of spreading disease as failure to embalm.

Sen. O. H. Harris, R-Dallas, chairman of the committee, warned that he does not intend to permit all 113 witnesses to testify in the hearings, which were scheduled to resume Tuesday, and he asked the opponents to condense their presentations.





tional explosions were possible as long as an accompanying fire continued. 'Anytime you have fires around

PRAYING

controls and switches are locate is just gone. It blew it out over He said most of the injurie saw were burns, and many of victims were being taken out smoke from the fire that erupted after the blast billowed 500 feet into the air, visible from about one

about one mile from the ele said the explosion shook his but ing. and a half from the elevator.

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