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Injured Phillips worker dies in hospital

PASADENA (AP) — A construction worker hospitalized since the Oct. 23 explosion at the Phillips Petroleum Co. plastics plant has died, bringing the official death toll to 18 while crews continued to search for five people who remain missing.

The worker, who was employed by Fish Engineering and Construction Inc., died Tuesday morning at Pasadena General Hospital, said Phillips spokesman Jere Smith. Fish Engineering is a subcontractor for Phillips. The man's name has

been withheld, pending notification of relatives, a Fish spokesman said. Meanwhile, two Phillips Petroleum Co. executives have been asked to testify before a House subcommittee in Washington about the deadly explosion and fire. Phillips President Glenn Cox and Bill Thompson, executive vice president of downstream operations, will testify Monday before the employment and housing subcommittee.

Rep. Tom Lantos, D-Calif., chairman of the panel, told Phillips in a letter that the subcommit-

tee will examine federal, corporate and labor responses to the explosion at the plastics plant in Pasadena.

Smith said Cox and Thompson will discuss company's safety procedures.

Phillips officials believe flammable hydrogen vapor from ethylene and isobutane gas escaped from a leaking chemical reactor, triggering a series of explosions Oct. 23 at the plant. But company officials have said they don't know how the gases were ignited.

Date rape

(Continued from page 1)

gust 1989, three rapes were reported to the University Police Department and all were either date or acquaintance rape.

Date or acquaintance rape is defined as forced intercourse by someone the victim knows without her consent.

Studies show in 65 percent of rape cases, the victim has met or is familiar with the rapist, and 70 percent of all rapes are planned ahead of time, which unravels the myth that most rapists are impulsive and motivated by uncontrolled desires.

In the past two months UPD has been made aware of three date or acquaintance rapes. One of the women pressed charges and her case is under investigation. The other two women opted not to press charges.

While it is the decision of the victim, society sometimes determines whether an individual will report the rape and press charges.

Wiatt said it's because of the myth attributed to a date rape scenario.

"She feels guilty and thinks she did something to bring it about," Wiatt said. "Often people say the girl asked for it because she was being coy and led him on, so the guy went bonkers and attacked her. But the fact is if a girl says 'no' and the guy pursues — it's rape. Nobody asks to be raped. Saying 'no' is the one ingredient that constitutes rape."

Another reason Wiatt said many victims won't press charges is because of the standardized fear of going to court and possibly having to talk about past sexual experiences.

True, in court the defense attorney's often tend to be harsh, but Wiatt said this shouldn't deter any victim from pressing charges because "the facts will speak for themselves in the end."

If a victim does take it to court, she has to prove the defendant is guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. Since rarely there are eyewitnesses to rape, as much evidence as possible has to be gathered.

It's critical for a rape victim to go straight to the hospital for an examination to get proper evidence, while the victim also should tell someone

immediately so their statement can be used in court.

Wiatt cited another reason many women don't report a rape because "they don't like it to be known that they were 'suckers' — this is plain ridiculous."

They classify themselves as 'suckers' because they knew the rapist, as opposed to stranger rape.

Stranger rape gets less flack from society because there's no association and the person became an unknown victim, Wiatt said.

"Well, in date and acquaintance rape it's just as wrong and just as painful — if not even more traumatic."

Kretzschmar said violence is used more often in stranger rape than in date rape, while "the rapist persuades and manipulates the relationship that had already been established — he exploits her trust."

Dr. Charlene Muehlenhard, a former A&M psychology professor, said in a March 1987 issue of *The Battalion* if a woman says no, a guy might not believe her even if she tries to fight him off because of tradition says a woman will never say yes to sex, but instead must be talked or forced into it.

"Thus the man often doesn't believe it was rape — even afterwards," Muehlenhard said. "Men are more likely to think, 'I can tell she wants to have sex.' Men feel women can't admit it when they want sex so they force it out of them."

A pamphlet distributed by Student Affairs furthers Muehlenhard's point in citing that an Auburn University survey reported that when women were asked if they had been raped, only three or four percent said yes. But when asked if they had ever been forced to have sex against their will, 20 percent said yes.

Wiatt said it's often hard to draw the line between date rape and consensual sex.

Sometimes a person screams rape after the incident and the situation becomes one person's word against the other — those are the tough ones.

All rape cases are tough ones, Wiatt said, because with each case there's a different victim, a different rapist, different circumstances and different reactions.

But each time the results are the same — the culprit has stolen something from the victim that can never be retrieved, Wiatt said. The scars left within are deep and painful, while the memory is vivid and long. It's not likely the rapists face could ever be erased from a victim's memory, and in the case of date rape, the victim has to cope with the fact that it was once a face she might have trusted.

Wiatt, who has worked with the Brazos Country Rape Crisis Center since its beginning in 1983 and served as president for three years, said a date rapist is an opportunist and the best defense is to take all the opportunities away by reducing vulnerability in the situation.

"Women should realize they don't owe a guy a thing if he takes her out, and just because she may kiss him doesn't give him any right to expect anything more," Wiatt said.

"But the woman has to be assertive, she has to be forceful when she says no," he said. "If that doesn't stop him, she should scream 'fire' or do something to catch the predator off guard, and if she can, she should aim for the groin area or eyes."

Authorities recommend to passively resist until you can actively resist.

Dub Oliver, a graduate assistant who works with Student Affairs and gives seminars on date rape two or three times monthly, said they preach prevention and protection hoping they're being heard.

"Too often a student has a false concept of the environment they're in — they think it's completely safe," he said. "We're here to tell them it's not. Texas A&M is no different from anywhere else and is not exempt from crimes like date rape."

The penalties for such a crime have been accused of not being harsh enough.

Sexual assault is a second-degree felony carrying a punishment of two to 20 years in jail and/or a \$10,000 fine. Aggravated sexual assault is a first degree felony, bringing with it no less than five years and up to 99 years in prison.

The district attorney's office said although few offenders spend a majority of their sentences in jail, that shouldn't stop someone from re-

porting the crime. They only go to court with the cases they can win.

If a student doesn't want to press criminal charges, there's a procedure.

While the Brazos County Rape Crisis Center encourages victims to report rape, one of their major purposes is to act as a support during the healing process.

If the sexual assault is between two students, the date rape case will be handled by A&M.

Dr. Brent Paterson, judicial affairs supervisor, said on campus legal system for date rape is difficult.

"First, I'm the only person who hears the case," Paterson said. "The victim must submit a statement telling what happened and they want to go through the disciplinary process. I review the information to see if there will be enough to go to court."

The next step involves press charges, where it is stated whether the defendant is charged with rape and is sent to the defendant. The case has an administration conference with Paterson to review the case about the case, then he hears the defendant's case.

"If the stories are different," Paterson said, "the victim and the defendant meet with me, and depending on the case, the accused could be suspended, forced to take courses and possibly be kicked out of school. Then the student can appeal the case."

But too often none of these steps are taken because a victim won't report the crime, for whatever reason.

Instead, sometimes the victim's friend, who in turn will relate to other friends.

Wiatt said this is what leads students to get the idea that they don't read about the assault in the newspaper, the police, the university administration and even the newspaper are trying to "cover up" assaults to protect A&M's reputation — this just isn't true.

"We want public awareness," Wiatt said. "We want everyone to know it happens at A&M, and we would guess it happens nearly every day in College Station, but that won't ever show this."

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