

Worker sues ExxonMobil for writing off injuries as 'sunburn'



Houston, August 5 (RHC)-- In the United States, a worker at the Baytown-Texas ExxonMobil plant, Alvaro Coronel, is suing the company after its clinic considered the injuries he suffered during a recent explosion at the plant, as similar to "a sunburn."

Meeting with reporters in the municipality just outside Houston, Texas, Coronel, who is a crane operator, showed his burn injuries. He related his experience, saying he ran toward the exit after the first explosion and fell after the second and third blast, which "rocked the ground."

He was then transported by ExxonMobil officials to the company's clinic where he was simply bandaged and his burn injuries later wrote off as similar to "a sunburn."

Working at the plant for eight months, he said it seemed to function correctly and that what happened was an accident. However, his lawyers said he should have received better treatment given his injuries. A total of 66 people were treated after the plant caught fire following the explosion.

The case is the latest legal action against the oil and gas corporation after the explosion. Harris County in the state of Texas sued the company just one day after the blasts alleging it violated the Texas Clean Air Act due to the release of pollutants.

The Baytown complex that includes the olefins plant where the fire occurred, employs about 7,000 people among four manufacturing sites that cover 1,375 hectares. The complex sits along the Houston Ship Channel, the nation's largest and busiest energy port.

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