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OSHA investigating explosion on HP campus in Corvallis

LILLIAN SCHROCK Corvallis Gazette-Times Mar 28, 2018

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This aerial image shows the HP Inc. campus in northeast Corvallis.

Andy Cripe, Gazette-Times file

The Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division is looking into last week's explosion on the HP Inc. campus in Corvallis, according to the government agency.

OSHA enforces statewide workplace safety and health rules. Corvallis Fire Department officials have said a hydrogen generator inside an HP laboratory exploded last Thursday, injuring four people. Two people were transported to Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center. Their injuries were non-life threatening. Officials have declined to release the names of the people who were injured.

Aaron Corvin, a spokesperson for OSHA, said the agency is investigating the explosion and has 180 days to complete its investigation. Corvin said he could not discuss the details of an active investigation. The results of the investigation will be made public, he said.

Generally, when OSHA investigates workplace incidents, officials collect evidence from the scene, interview witnesses and company officials and review safety records, Corvin said. Investigators may look into what training and supervision had been involved and what safety protocols were in place, as well as examine any equipment involved, he said.

Corvin said OSHA then determines whether an employer violated safety rules and decides whether to issue a citation with penalties.

A spokeswoman for HP Inc. did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Jim Patton, a spokesperson for the Fire Department, said fire officials investigated the explosion in cooperation with HP. He said the explosion was caused when hydrogen was unintentionally introduced into a high voltage portion of the generator.

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