

Ramco probe 'nears end'

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A 'THOROUGH and careful' investigation into the Ramco gas explosion is close to completion.

So says acting Chief Fire Officer Andy Hutchinson, who confirmed that the report when finished will include findings from a risk assessment that was done two weeks before the blast.

On July 24, an explosion and fire at Ramco Gas Company Ltd in Cross Crossing, San Fernando, left four employees injured, two of them in critical condition, and prompted an emergency response by fire, police and health officials.

The incident occurred around 7.15 p.m. at the facility located along Shafik Drive. Kristen Charles, 29, a painter employed with the company, told police he was in the lunchroom when he heard an explosion. Chaos ensued as staff members began evacuating the compound.

Emergency services responded and four employees were identified as injured, Ashook Sahadeo of Pleasantville, Nyron Dewsbury, 37, of New Grant, Vedesh Harripersad, 31, of Williamsville, and Chris Jaggai of Penal.

All four were transported to San Fernando General Hospital by Emergency Health Services personnel.

In a telephone interview with Hutchinson on Tuesday, he reported that he was still awaiting the report concerning that explosion. He confirmed that the incident occurred when the employees were refilling cylinders and explained that the investigation was nearing completion, 'but investigators still had to interview a couple people.' He said that the interviews were taking longer than usual because of the nature of the incident and investigators intend to be very thorough.