



## Texas Department of Insurance

**State Fire Marshal's Office** Mail Code 112-FM  
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May 6, 2013

### **FACT SHEET** **West, Texas Fertilizer Plant Incident**

- The investigation into the origin and cause of the West Fertilizer Plant Fire and Explosion is ongoing. The investigation will not be complete by May 10. The investigation will take 1-2 weeks beyond May 10.
- The following causes related to the initial fire have been eliminated: weather, natural, anhydrous ammonium, the railcar containing ammonium nitrate, and a fire within the ammonium nitrate bin. Additionally, water used during fire fighting activities did not contribute to the cause of the explosion.
- The investigation has revealed, to date, that the origin of the fire was in the fertilizer and seed building. The investigators continue to work on pinpointing an exact location of origin.
- To date: SFMO and ATF have developed 237 leads, from which 411 interviews have been conducted. On average 60-70 investigators are on site daily assisting with the investigation. Approximately 29 state and federal agencies have assisted on the scene.