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GARDEN GROVE

Officials: Massive explosion avoided

All-night operation confirms that a crack in chemical tank is relieving pressure

By Sean Emery, Rachel Fobar, Todd Harmonson, and Brian Rokos
STAFF WRITERS

A crack inside a malfunctioning chemical tank at a Garden Grove aerospace plant is indeed reducing pressure inside the container, crews have confirmed, leading fire officials to say they have avoided the most catastrophic threat — a massive explosion.

Data collected from an “all-night mission” by fire crews determined that the threat of a highly destructive blast known as a “boiling liquid expanding vapor explosion,” or “BLEVE,” has been eliminated, interim Orange County Fire Authority Chief T.J. McGovern announced in a Monday morning video update.

“The crack is there,” Division Chief Craig Covey added. “We had identified it is there, and the tank has released its pressure.”

After days of often dire warnings by fire officials and experts, the announcement was the most optimistic update yet by those working to head off a potential disaster. A boiling liquid expanding vapor explosion, which would have

Inside and online: World Central Kitchen among those aiding evacuees. **A9**

Lawsuit against aerospace company alleges negligence in chemical storage. [dailybulletin.com](#)

likely caused massive damage and released a toxic chemical plume into the air, occurs when a sealed, pressurized container holding a liquid chemical ruptures.

“The threat of a BLEVE is off the table,” McGovern said. “That threat has been eliminated.”

The crisis is not fully averted, authorities cautioned. The possibility of a lesser explosion or a leak

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A pressurized tank filled with methyl methacrylate is sprayed with water at GKN Aerospace in Garden Grove on Saturday. Crews have confirmed a crack in the tank. **JEFF GRITCHEN — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**

MEMORIAL DAY

Inland Empire honors the fallen



Cheryl Rex, second from left, mother of late Marine Lance Cpl. Dylan R. Merola, who died in Afghanistan in 2021, joins future son-in-law Luke Cervantes, left, and daughter Olivia at the unveiling of the Gold Star Families Memorial Monument at Central Park in Rancho Cucamonga on Monday. **WILL LESTER — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**

New monument dedicated to Gold Star families in Rancho Cucamonga

By Kim Guimarin
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Communities throughout the Inland Empire gathered Monday to honor U.S. military veterans who died serving their country.

From monument dedications to wreath-laying ceremonies to motorcycle rides, area residents gathered to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

In Rancho Cucamonga, a Gold Star Memorial Monument was unveiled Monday at Central Park, 11200 Base Line Road. The new city landmark is “dedicated to fallen service members and their families.”

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Under a giant American flag, motorcyclists begin the West Coast Memorial Day Motorcycle Ride in Riverside on Monday. It's not “just a ride, it's a salute to those who gave everything,” the West Coast Thunder website says. **PHOTO BY NICK KOON**

MIDDLE EAST WAR

Trump links Abraham Accords to Iran deal

Several countries should sign on to normalizing Israel relations, he says

By Lindsay Whitehurst and Munir Ahmed
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said Monday that any agreement to end the Iran war should include a requirement for several additional countries, including Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, to join the Abraham Accords, the U.S.-brokered agreements from Trump's first term aimed at normalizing relations with Israel.

Trump said in a social media post that negotiations

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SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

Candidates for sheriff focus on spending, morale, skills

By Brian Rokos
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The candidates for San Bernardino County Sheriff — the challenger, former Sgt. Joe Silva, and the incumbent, Shannon Dicus — want voters in the June 2 election to consider their assertions about morale, spending and experience when ballots are cast.

Silva, 61, is an Air Force veteran who worked for the Sheriff's Department for 29 years, supervising by his estimate 400 deputies in his career.

Dicus, 59, is an Army veteran with 34 years in law enforcement and was undersheriff when he was appointed to succeed retiring Sheriff John McMahon in 2021. Dicus

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INLAND EMPIRE

Amazon launched disaster relief hub, then came fires

Beaumont hub, 1 of 15 in world, learned a lot from Eaton, Palisades blazes

By Jeff Horseman
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Talk about a baptism by fire. The Amazon Disaster Relief California Wildfire Hub, based in an Inland Empire warehouse, opened less than six months before the January 2025 Eaton and Palisades fires killed 31 and destroyed thousands of homes in Southern California.

Helping Eaton and Palisades victims fell in the wheelhouse of the hub, one of two in the U.S. — the other one is in Atlanta — and 15 worldwide that have helped the megaretailer since 2017 donate more than 26 million relief items to more than 200 disaster sites around the globe.

But the fires' scale, and the relief gaps they revealed, gave Amazon valuable lessons in how to help

when disaster strikes, something expected to happen more often as climate change sets the stage for more California wildfires.

“The Eaton and Palisades fires showed us how severe and ravaging fires can now be on the West Coast or anywhere in the world,” Bettina Stix, founder of Amazon's

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Amazon disaster relief founder Bettina Stix is seen Wednesday with a pallet of emergency supplies at Amazon's Disaster Relief California Wildfire Hub in Beaumont. **WILL LESTER — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**

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