Khrissell Tyler, 11, watches Exxon workers in protective gear as they search on Winnebago Street Tuesday for asbestos and other debris from Monday's fatal fire.

One still missing in Exxon fire; family member identifies victim

By STEVE WHEELER

Advocate staff writer

Exxon Refinery crews searching the rubble left by Monday's fatal fire were unable to locate the final missing worker Tuesday, but one of the two victims found Monday was identified by a relative.

The coroner's office has not officially identified the remains of the two workers found after the blaze, officials said.

However, the family of Janet Jewell Inzenga placed her obituary in The Advocate late Tuesday.

The family is certain that Inzenga, a 28-year-old Baton Rouge mother of two, died in the blaze, said her brother-in-law, Murphy Oubre Jr.

Refinery crews searched throughout the day for the final missing worker, but halted the search at dark because of safety concerns, refinery spokesman Walt Eldredge said. Workers haven't completed their search, he said.

The crews were hampered by the extent of the damage to the coker unit where the fire occurred, he said.

"A lot of the stuff fell or was deformed by the heat," Eldredge said. "Some of the normal access ways are not there anymore. There's a lot of uncertain footing and it's way up in the air."

Coroner Hypolite Landry said the bodies of the two workers found Monday night were burned beyond recognition, and dental records will be used to identify them.

Meanwhile, at least three investiga-
EXON

ACCIDENTS IN THE BATON ROUGE AREA

Below is a list of accidents at local Exxon facilities from the present to Christmas Eve 1989 when a large explosion occurred at the Exxon refinery.

Aug. 2, 1993: Exxon refinery on Scenic Highway
- Fire in coker unit.
- Two killed; one missing.
- Cause unknown.
- Under control in three hours; completely out in about 14 hours.
- No airborne off-site toxic release detected.

April 1, 1993: Exxon refinery
- Fire in coker unit.
- Caused by many things, primarily human error.
- One Exxon employee critically injured.
- Under control in about 15 minutes; completely out in 90 minutes.
- Mostly electrical damage.
- No off-site toxic release detected.

March 1, 1993: Exxon chemical plant on Scenic Highway
- Contract worker seriously injured in fall from 15-foot platform.

Feb. 23, 1993: Exxon chemical plant
- Contract worker killed when crushed between pipes and handrail of manlift he was riding.

Dec. 20, 1990: Exxon plastics plant on Scotland Avenue
- Explosion and fire caused by ethylene gas leak.
- Fire under control within 15 seconds.
- No injuries or environmental damage reported.

Oct. 8, 1990: Exxon Chemical Co. line at Anchorage Chemical Terminal, Port Allen
- Five thousand pounds of butadiene — a colorless, flammable gas used to make automobile tires — released when gasket burst.
- Part of River Road in Port Allen closed for several hours.
- No injuries.

June 13, 1990: Exxon refinery
- Fire at a pump burned light fuel oil for 20 minutes.
- No injuries.

April 27, 1989: Exxon refinery
- Fire in storage tank extinguished after 10 minutes.
- Heating oil residues caught fire in tank damaged by Dec. 24, 1989 fire.
- Fire caused by workers using mechanical shears to cut up the tank. Heat produced during the cutting or a spark from the equipment caused the fire.

Dec. 24, 1989: Exxon refinery
- Explosion killed two people, injured several.
- Blast felt miles away.
- More than 1,000 reports of damaged homes or businesses.
- Caused by corrosion of a pipeline.
- OSHA fined Exxon about $5,000.
- Fire put out in 15 hours.

Source: Advocate files

Advocate graphic

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