

OpenVoiceNews U.S.

Transparent. Unbiased. Yours.

Three Dead, Including Two Children, After Explosion at Nebraska Biofuel Plant

July 31, 2025

– Categories: *Breaking News*



A tragic explosion at Horizon Biofuels in Fremont, Nebraska has claimed the lives of one employee and two young girls. The blast occurred Tuesday afternoon, and recovery teams located the bodies more than 24 hours later as firefighters continued to battle the lingering fire.

Horizon Biofuels, a facility that manufactures fuel pellets and animal bedding, is located roughly 40 miles northwest of Omaha. The deceased employee was identified as 32-year-old Dylan D. Danielson of Columbus, Nebraska. The two girls, both believed to be under 12 years old, were with Danielson at the time of the explosion. Officials have chosen not to release their names. According to Fremont Mayor Joey Spellerberg, the

children were waiting for Danielson to finish his shift so they could leave for a doctor's appointment.

Search and rescue operations were significantly delayed due to ongoing fire hazards and concerns over the building's stability. Fremont Fire Chief Todd Bernt described the scene as having "a lot of structural collapse" and stated that initial attempts to enter the building were hindered by mangled steel and dangerous conditions.

Nebraska Task Force One was called in to assist, bringing in structural engineers and additional rescue personnel to access the debris safely. Task Force program manager Ashley Engler confirmed crews were utilizing all available search and rescue tools to recover the victims without further risk.

Firefighters faced heavy smoke and flames on arrival. Inside the plant were flammable materials, including wood and alcohol-based substances, which contributed to the intensity of the fire. The cause of the explosion is currently under investigation by the Nebraska State Fire Marshal's Office and other agencies.

Nebraska Governor Jim Pillen issued a statement saying he is closely monitoring the situation and offering state support, adding, "Our thoughts and prayers are with all involved."

Mayor Spellerberg expressed deep sorrow over the loss, calling the incident "a tragedy" and noting the emotional toll on the tight-knit community.

In the wake of the disaster, local residents showed support for first responders. One woman arrived at the site to distribute water, telling reporters she saw a large puff of black smoke and immediately feared the worst. "We're a good community," she said. "Everybody will rally together and help each other."

The investigation remains active as officials work to determine what caused the fatal blast.