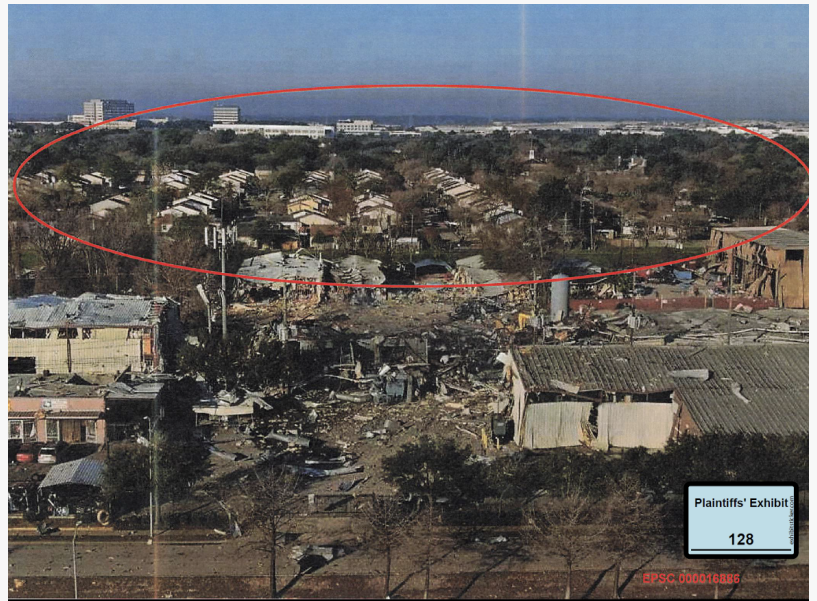


Harris County Jury Awards \$118.7 Million in Second Watson Grinding Explosion Trial

Five plaintiffs awarded \$118.7 million as Westbranch neighborhood recovery continues nearly six years after the blast

HOUSTON, TX, UNITED STATES,
November 13, 2025 /

EINPresswire.com/ -- Days ago, a Harris County jury returned its second [verdict](#) this year in favor of five plaintiffs injured in the January 24, 2020 Watson Grinding explosion. The case, Inez Vasquez-Lopez et al. v. 3M Company, Cause No. 2020-05585-B, was tried in the 295th Judicial District Court of Harris County, Judge Donna Roth presiding. Lead Counsel for Trial Plaintiffs, Rob Kwok & Ryan Loya of [Kwok Daniel LLP](#) in Houston Texas along with Will Moye of Moye Law Firm tried the case to verdict over nearly three weeks.



West Houston Neighborhood Destroyed in Explosion

“

3M is Exposed for Billions in This Deadly Residential Explosion.”

Rob Kwok

The jury found 3M Company 49% responsible for the explosion and awarded the five plaintiffs \$118,702,783.83 in compensatory damages, exclusive of interest and court costs. This verdict follows an earlier bellwether trial in which a separate jury awarded \$38 million in damages.

A preliminary review reveals the \$118 million award is the largest jury verdict to date against 3M, exceeding the prior \$110 million earplug-related verdict returned in federal court.

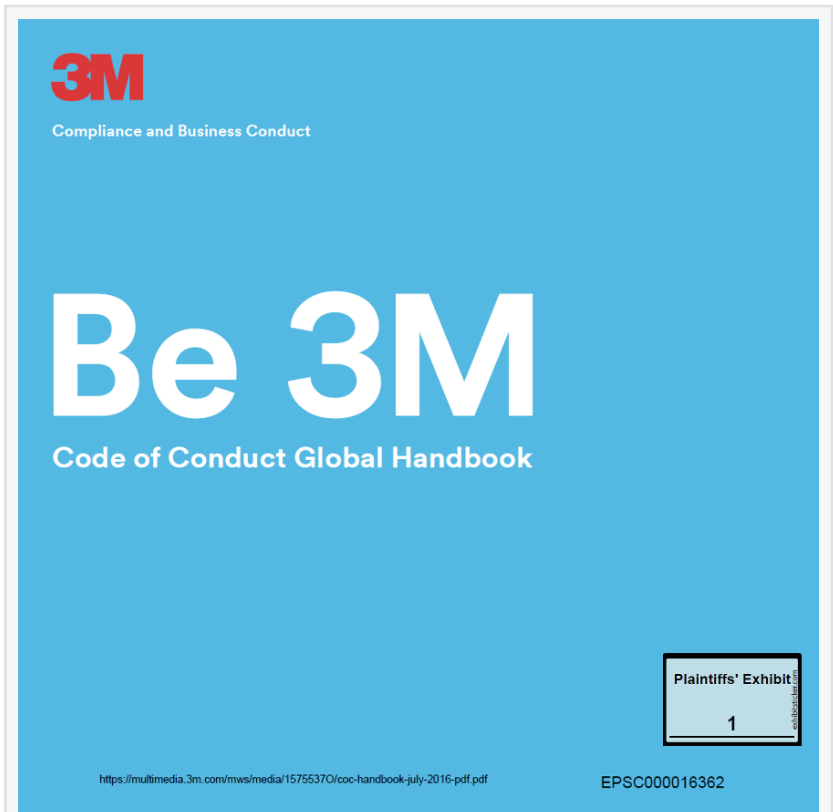
The January 24, 2020 propylene explosion at Watson Grinding resulted in three fatalities, widespread property destruction, and injuries throughout the surrounding Westbranch neighborhood. Hundreds of homes were damaged or destroyed, leaving many residents displaced in the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic. Repair efforts were complicated by

insurance disputes, increased material costs, and supply-chain shortages.

More than 1,000 residents sought representation, and Kwok Daniel LLP filed the first lawsuit in the 281st District Court, Judge Christine Weems Presiding, Cause No. 2020-04959, Rigoberto Miranda Jr., et. al. vs. Watson Valve Services Inc., et. al. The Kwok Daniel trial team secured a temporary restraining order for the expert team to secure the site, preserve evidence, and allow investigators to access the blast zone.

After Watson Grinding filed for bankruptcy, the litigation expanded to include additional defendants. Ultimately, more than 2,200 claims were centralized, and a Plaintiffs' Steering Committee (PSC) was appointed. The case was overseen by the Harris County MDL Court, 11th Judicial District, Judge Mark Davidson presiding. Beginning in 2021, the PSC conducted over 150 depositions. In July 2022, most parties reached a settlement in principle, leading to a Master Settlement Agreement and a structured allocation process overseen by mediators Alice Oliver-Parrott and Andrew McKinney. A proposed allocation was issued in January 2024, followed by an appeal and verification process for individual awards. Former Texas Supreme Court Justice David Medina was appointed to oversee and approve the minor settlements.

Throughout the litigation, numerous homeowners pursued first-party insurance claims related to explosion damage. Many of those matters required substantial documentation, negotiation, and litigation before resolution. Kwok



3M Violated Their Own Code of Conduct

CAUSE NO. 2020-05585-B

INEZ VAZQUEZ LOPEZ, OLIVA
FLORES-MEJIA, SUZANNE SLAVINSKY
ERICA BRAVO A/N/F OF R.B., MINOR
And JAIME GONZALES

Plaintiffs,

VS.

3M COMPANY

Defendant

IN THE DISTRICT COURT FOR
Harris County, Texas
District Clerk
NOV 06 2025
Time: 12:26 pm
By: [Signature] Deputy
HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS p.25

295TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

CHARGE OF THE COURT

MEMBERS OF THE JURY:

After closing arguments, you will go to the jury room to decide the case, answer the questions that are attached, and reach a verdict. You may discuss the case with the other jurors only when you are all together in the jury room.

Remember my previous instructions: Do not discuss the case with anyone else, either in person or by any other means. Do not do any independent investigation about the case or conduct any research. Do not look up any words in dictionaries or on the Internet. Do not post information about the case on the Internet. Do not share any special knowledge or experiences with other jurors. Do not use your cell phone or any other electronic device during your deliberations for any reason.

Any notes you have taken are for your own personal use. You may take your notes back into the jury room and consult them during deliberations, but do not show or read your notes to your fellow jurors during your deliberations. Your notes are not evidence. Each of you should rely on your independent recollection of the evidence and not be influenced by the fact that another juror has or has not taken notes.

You must leave your notes with the bailiff when you are not deliberating. The bailiff will give your notes to me promptly after collecting them from you. I will make sure your notes are kept in a safe, secure location and not disclosed to anyone. After you complete your deliberations, the bailiff will collect your notes. When you are released from jury duty, the bailiff will promptly destroy your notes so that nobody can read what you wrote.

Here are the instructions for answering the questions:

1. Do not let bias, prejudice, or sympathy play any part in your deliberations. Everyone, including me, has feelings, assumptions, perceptions, fears, and stereotypes that we may not be aware of but that can affect what we see and hear, how we remember what we see and hear, and how we make decisions. Because you are making important

RECORDED'S MEMORANDUM
This instrument is of poor quality
at the time of imaging

Click "Verdict" for Jury Charge

Daniel LLP litigated the first-part insurance claims all to a successful resolution at no charge, as a professional courtesy to clients.

To date, two bellwether trials have proceeded to record jury verdicts. Additional cases remain pending, and the court is expected to assign another preferential trial setting at an upcoming hearing.

Despite the devastation caused by the explosion, reconstruction in the Westbranch neighborhood continues. The recent verdicts mark significant progress toward final resolution of the remaining claims and long-term recovery for affected residents.

Respectfully, Rob Kwok
Lead Trial Counsel for 1,000+ Kwok Daniel Plaintiffs

Contact Info:
Rob Kwok
2050 W Sam Houston Pkwy S, Ste 1500
Houston, TX 77042
1.713.773.3380
info@kwoklaw.com
www.kwoklaw.com
www.watsongrindingexplosion.com

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Robert Kwok
Kwok Daniel Ltd LLP
rkwok@kwoklaw.com
Visit us on social media:
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