

BOSTON

Family of Lawrence gas victim Leonel Rondon plans to sue Columbia Gas of Massachusetts

Updated 10:17 AM;
Posted 9:30 AM



Eighteen-year-old Leonel Rondon, pictured here, was killed when a chimney fell on a car

during the gas explosions on Sept. 13, 2018.
(Facebook)

1

2
shares

By Kristin LaFratta, kristin.lafratta@masslive.com

Relatives of 18-year-old Leonel Rondon, the Lawrence teenager killed in the Merrimack Valley gas explosions last month, are planning legal action against Columbia Gas of Massachusetts.

In a press conference Thursday morning, attorney Doug Sheff spoke on behalf of the Rondon family, criticizing the danger caused by what he described as a lack of oversight by Columbia Gas.

"It's so basic to all of us that we be able to live in our homes and our workplaces safely. This puts a cloud over safety for everybody in the area," Sheff said, as reported by the [Boston Globe](#).

The lawsuit has not yet been filed and it is unclear how much money the family will seek.

Rondon had just received his license on Sept. 13 -- the day he was killed. He was sitting inside of a parked car in a friend's driveway when an explosion caused by over-pressurized gas lines knocked a chimney onto the car. He was the only casualty from the event that day. More than two dozen people were injured.



Omayra Figueroa, who lived in the home that exploded on Chickering Road, has also filed a lawsuit against Columbia Gas. Figueroa and her three children are now homeless as a result of the disaster.

Columbia Gas has a target date of Nov. 19 to restore gas to more than 8,000 units, including homes and businesses.

But the restoration process has been slow moving. Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey announced this week that unless Columbia Gas "significantly increases the resources applied to the block-by-block repair process," thousands of homes will be without heat by winter, at which point pipes will freeze.



Finish your Bachelor's Degree with a focus in **TRANSLATION & INTERPRETING**

LEARN MORE

Receive credit for work experience.

100% Online Degree Completion.

UMassAmherst

Ad ▾

SPONSOR CONTENT

What to Do When Student Loan Payments Are Daunting





By First Republic Bank

Getting ahead of student loan debt, buying a home and establishing wealth can be a daunting task.

[Learn More](#)



Use of and/or registration on any portion of this site constitutes acceptance of our **User Agreement** (updated 5/25/18) and **Privacy Policy and Cookie Statement** (updated 5/25/18).



© 2018 Advance Local Media LLC. All rights reserved (**About Us**).

The material on this site may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, cached or otherwise used, except with the prior written permission of Advance Local.

Community Rules apply to all content you upload or otherwise submit to this site.

Your California Privacy Rights

[▶ Ad Choices](#)

