**BREAKING NEWS:** 

FBI Arrests 56-Year-Old Man In Florida In Connection With Mail Bombs



**■ MENU** 

**NEWS** 

WEATHER SPORTS VIDEO

**BOSTON'S** 

**WBZTV** ON AIR

Q

Good just got better. ≈ AIRTAME



# Family Of Teen Killed In Lawrence Gas Explosion To Sue Columbia Gas

October 25, 2018 at 12:37 pm Filed Under: Lawrence, Leonel Rondon, Merrimack Valley Gas Explosions



LAWRENCE (CBS/AP) - The family of a teenager killed in the Merrimack Valley gas explosions plans to sue Columbia Gas.

Attorney Doug Sheff told reporters Thursday that Columbia Gas was reckless and should have to pay for last month's death of 18year-old Leonel Rondon.

Rondon was killed when a home exploded and a chimney collapsed, crushing the car he was sitting in with 18-year-old Christian Figueroa and Figueroa's 17-year-old brother.



60 Vintage Photos That Captured Way More Than Expected Photos That Show A Different Side To The Past

## **FOLLOW US**

## **OUR NEWSLETTER**

Sign up and get our latest headlines delivered right to your inbox!

Email address

Subscribe Now!

## **MOST VIEWED**

- Winter Appetizer: Windy, Wet Nor'easter Headed To New England **D**
- I-Team: Jiffy Lube Denies That Oil Change Caused SUV Fire D
- Question 1: Breaking Down What It Would Mean For Patient Access **D**
- Keller @ Large: Ancestry Issue May Be Least Of Warren's Problems D
- It Happens Here: Woburn's Hidden Relic D
- Whitey Bulger Moved From Florida Prison; Health Declining **D**



Leonel Rondon (Facebook photo)

Sheff says Rondon's family "wants justice" and to "find meaning in such a senseless death." He says a wrongful death lawsuit will be filed at a later date.

Rondon, a high school junior, was the only person killed in the gas explosions. He had received his driver's license just hours earlier.

Last month, the Figueroa family announced they are suing Columbia Gas for "gross negligence." The family lost their home — where Rondon was killed — in the explosions.

Their lawsuit holds the utility responsible for "substantial personal injury and profound pain and suffering they are experiencing," their attorney said in September.



A home on Chickering Road in Lawrence exploded Sept. 13, 2018. The chimney crushed an SUV, killing Leonel Rondon. (WBZ-TV)

Two explosions rocked the Figueroa family's home on Chickering Road. Shakira Figueroa has endured several surgeries for her injuries, the lawsuit states.

A Columbia Gas spokesman didn't immediately respond to an email. The National Transportation Safety Board says over-pressurized gas lines caused the explosions.

Full gas restoration in the area was planned for Nov. 19, but that date may now be pushed back.

Officials say they will have a better idea of a timeline by Monday.

(© Copyright 2018 CBS Broadcasting Inc. All Rights Reserved. The Associated Press contributed to this report.)

#### Comments



- 7 Woman Claims Delta Chose Cats Over Husband's Allergy ▶
- 8 Police Searching For Vandals Who Smashed Pumpkins Into Cars **D**
- 9 Researchers Find Link Between Height And Cancer Risk <a> E</a>
- 10 New Deadline For Merrimack Valley Gas Restoration Is Now December 2-16 ▶



**60 Vintage Photos That Captured Way More Than Expected**Photos That Show A Different Side To The Past



## 8 Year Old Girl, Born Deaf, Thrives Thanks To Mass. Eye And Ear Doctor & Cochlear Implants

How a transformative surgery helped Elle overcome profound deafness.

## Columbia Gas: Nearly 36 Miles Of Pipeline Replaced Since...

Columbia Gas announced Sunday that it's 80 percent through its work replacing 45 miles of main pipeline.

### If Your Dog Eats Grass (Do This Everyday)

Ultimate Pet Nutrition | Sponsored

Surgeon Reveals: "You Can Fill In Wrinkles At Home" (Here's How)

Beverly Hills MD | Sponsored

Doctor Says Don't Cover Up Your Dark Spots - (Try This Instead)

Gundry MD | Sponsored

The "Fiber Secret" To Smoother Digestion

Gundry MD Supplements | Sponsored

U.S. Cardiologist: Stop Taking Probiotics Immediately

Gundry MD | Sponsored

Report: Sony Michel's Knee Injury 'Not Considered Serious' Following MRI

No Gas And Cold Temperatures Frustrate Merrimack Valley Residents

These Breeds Make The Best Companions For Seniors & Retirees

Livestly | Sponsored

# Senators' Borowiecki Will Have Disciplinary Hearing About Hit...

While Ottawa's Mark Borowiecki was not penalized for throwing an elbow at Bruins rookie Urho Vaakanainen Tuesday night, the NHL would like to have a word with the ...

Top Surgeon: How To Properly Flush Out Your Bowels

Gundry MD | Sponsored



Follow Us

10/26/2018 Family Of Teen Killed In Lawrence Gas Explosion To Sue Columbia Gas « CBS Boston

CONTRACT COM ONAIL 11277 STATION INFO Local Bruins Boston's Best Social About Us WBZ-TV Only CBS Download Our App **Politics** Celtics Advertise myTV38 Business **Patriots** Ad Choices HealthWatch Red Sox Contact Corporate Weather **EEO** Report Entertainment CBS Television Public File

> ©2018 CBS Broadcasting Inc. All Rights Reserved Powered by WordPress.com VIP

By viewing our video content, you are accepting the terms of our Video Services Policy Privacy Policy (Updated May 24, 2018) Terms of Use Your California Privacy Rights Mobile User Agreement