Corpus Christi fire crews battled fire at grain terminal for 13 hours

February 11, 2019

Corpus Christi Fire Department crews battled a fire at a grain terminal for about 13 hours Monday.

Crews responded to the fire just before 10 a.m. and were still inside the Interstate Grain Port Terminal through the afternoon.

The Corpus Christi Fire Department works to extinguish a grain silo fire at the Interstate Grain Port Terminal near the intersection of Up River Road and Lantana Street on Monday, Feb. 11, 2019.

Battalion chief Billy Belyeu said the fire was in a dust collection silo at the grain terminal.

Fire crews were in a defensive stance attempting to control smoldering about 1 p.m.

Nueces County Sheriff's Office deputies blocked portions of Up River Road and Lantana Street, and officials called for a shelter in place.

The silo in which the fire was contained has about 1,000 bushels of grain dust, emergency officials said.

The dust is highly combustible, Belyeu said.

"Dust is very explosive. I think 500 pounds of dust is equivalent to one stick of dynamite," Belyeu said. "That's why is important for us to keep the dust down and keep water on it."

Medics were on scene, but there were no reports of injuries.

People waited near the scene, but outside the fence line, as crews worked.

The Corpus Christi Fire Department was on scene at the Interstate Grain Port Terminal at one of their grain silos working to extinguish a blaze. The silo is located near the intersection of Up River Road and Lantana Street on Monday, Feb. 11, 2019.

The city of Corpus Christi's Office of Emergency Management sent an alert at 12:08 p.m. about the road blocks.

A shelter-in-place advisory effective for a mile radius was lifted at 12:38 p.m., the office of emergency management announced.

As of 5 p.m., crews were still working to keep the smoldering under control. The fire was out about 11 p.m. The cause of the fire is under investigation, Belyeu said.