



Departmental | 10:05 a.m.

## Suman three deaths from explosion of butane gas

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A third victim died due to the explosion of a suspected gas tank butane that left 17 people with burns, six of them with affectations up to 90 percent of your skin on 11 May at the development center Gatas Waters in the South Atlantic Autonomous Region (RAAS).

On Saturday night, died Rosendo Santos Medina and Marlene Arroliga Taleno in Hospital Juigalpa Assumption.

The first victim was Flora Manzanares, who died on May 14 in the evening hours, in the same hospital, where she underwent observation of burns.

The bodies of the victims were taken to the place where the accident occurred, the development center Aquas Gatas, 60 miles south of New Guinea.

### Follow up of May 11, 2014 explosion in southeastern Nicaragua near Nueva Guinea.

*(About 20 people were having social family gathering in a house, two propane gas tanks were in the in the kitchen, one of the tanks had a leak. When a person in the kitchen lit a match, this triggered a major explosion and fire in the building. 4 perished including a nine month old child. 17 were severely burned, 6 in critical condition.)*

Doctor Leandro Perez, Plastic Surgeon and W/NP Volunteer, was contacted by the physicians caring for the patients and asked to facilitate post initial treatment care for the survivors through the W/NP Therapy Dressing Project. The patients traveled 11 hours to the Managua Office for their first visit on July 12, 2014 where the Therapy Dressing volunteers constructed custom made garments to help in their healing process.



A second visit to the W/NP Managua Office was made possible on August 16<sup>th</sup> with assistance from the Juigalpa Hospital director and the Ministry of Health. Dr. Quintana, plastic surgeon resident from Lenin Fonseca and volunteer with the Therapy Dressing Project provided assistance and evaluation.

An interesting dialogue surfaced as the burned patients who live in the same community of Nueva Guinea do not see each other often as the nearest distance between them is 3 miles in very rural and mountainous terrain. The 2nd visit to the office not only was important for garment adjustment and replacement, but also provided the opportunity to interact and share their experiences of wearing the garments. Some of them were following the recommendation to wear the garments for 24 hours a day, taking off for a shower and putting back on after the shower. Patients could see the difference between the ones who were wearing the garments 24 hours and the ones who wore them just during the day or just wearing them for few hours.



The one month passing of time, allowed for burned areas that were still in treatment to be much more healed by their second visit to the project. **The patients that shared their experience showing the good results of wearing the garments 24 hours let the others know that it was not easy for them or customary to wear the garments, they had itching and were uncomfortable too, but they were following the recommendation of Dr. Leandro and Dr. Quintana.** During the second visit it was very apparent they could all see the big difference in results when the garment is worn the full 24 hours. The rest of patients made the promise to do the same for their well being and keep good documentation of the program.

The third visit is scheduled for November 22<sup>nd</sup> which makes possible perhaps a Skype connection between the Wisconsin W/NP Annual Meeting in Stevens Point Wisconsin and Nueva Guinea burn patients visit at WNP office in Managua.





**Thank you for your support of W/NP and the Therapy Dressing Project.**

**The dedicated staff you see in the white Ministry Health Care uniforms, are all volunteers who care deeply about their fellow man.**

The Therapy Dressing Project idea incubated for several years and catapulted into action last April when Diddman Jarquin, W/NP Nicaraguan Volunteer, repaired a donated industrial sewing machine.

Since that time over 1,000 garments have been custom made by a dedicated volunteer staff at the Managua Office.

**Marcia Velasquez**, “As a volunteer, I feel very happy and satisfied to be supporting and working with people who need it, because at the time we make the garments and try them on I feel a great satisfaction when we asked if they feel good and they respond with a smile we enjoy and we like to know that the work we are doing is very well.”

**Fatima Hernandez**, “We all share our skills as a group supporting each other and working together. We ask the patients about their story, to know what happened or what caused the accident, to have information about what happened to them. The experience to hear their personal story makes us work with our entire heart.”

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