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## Fire shuts part of Indiana refinery

British oil giant closes a processing unit in its 420,000 bpd Whiting refinery after a blast.

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**NEW YORK (Reuters) - An explosion at the third-largest oil refinery in the United States injured three people and forced BP to close part of the Whiting, Ind., facility Friday.**

The blast shut a catalytic hydrotreater, which removes sulfur for processing crude oil into other products, but the rest of the refinery was operating normally, British oil company BP said.

"It appears that hydrogen gas in the unit began to burn," BP said in a statement. The company would not elaborate.

The plant is a big supplier to the Chicago cash oil products market, where traders said BP was seen buying in the market on Friday.

The fire helped push oil futures above \$46 a barrel in New York Friday, the 10th record high hit in 11 trading days. Futures later slipped back to about \$46 a barrel, up 50 cents on the day.

BP would not say how long the unit would be down.

Whiting police said one of the injured suffered a minor shoulder wound after the early morning blast at the plant. Two employees were treated at the plant for minor injuries, while a contractor was taken to the hospital for the shoulder injury, BP said.

Police said the blast was large. "I live a mile from the refinery and I could feel my walls trembling," Detective Sergeant Donald Greer said about the blast.

Whiting fire officials said BP's own squad fought the fire and that the town's fire department had not been called out to fight the blaze. ■

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