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# FIRE

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long."

About an hour after the explosion, only a portion of a bedroom was standing. Debris was scattered across the front yard of the house.

Two vehicles in the driveway, a car and a pickup truck, were both badly damaged.

KPI, Gas Service Co. crews were called out to cut off the flow of natural gas to the smoldering house and to check the area for fumes.

Neighbors who came from several blocks away said they heard the explosion and felt the windows and walls of their houses shaken by the blast.

Daisy Smith of 206 E. 14th St. said she was getting ready to leave for work when she heard the explosion just before 6:30 and looked outside to see blue flames outside the Johnson house.

She heard screams coming from inside, but, she said, "Out of fear for my own life, I didn't go up to that house."

Rob Votaw of 1205 Austin described the blast as "a muffled boom" and said he ran to the Johnson house and found it completely in flames.

"There wasn't anything we could do," he said.