Elkhart authorities are investigating what caused this propane blast and fire Monday evening at Bultman's Tire on the southwest side of town. No one was injured in the ensuing fire. Photo courtesy Tannan Baldwin via KWCH TV

By ANDREW LOVELETTE

• KWCH Eyewitness News

ELKHART — Authorities are investigating after a propane blast in Morton County late Monday. It's unclear how the fire started, but it took hours to put it out.

Morton County Sheriff Justin Holliday says the fire was behind Bultman's Tire & Hardware store in Elkhart.

Emergency crews evacuated the southwest part of the town as a precaution, but everyone has been allowed home.

The sheriff says crews from all over helped get things under control.

“We all worked as a great big team and our fire guys were right there in the thick of it,” Sheriff Holliday said. “I can’t give them enough respect for what they did. They just took care of the problem.”

The State Fire Marshall will be on the scene this morning to help determine the cause of the fire.

No one was hurt.