

All Points elevator resuming some operations

Written by Elizabeth Barrett
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Trucks transporting grain from facility; repairs to start Monday.

Two weeks after a second explosion rocked the All Points elevator, officials are hopeful the cooperative can begin receiving grain again by next week.

All Points CEO and president Ed Foster said the state fire marshal turned over the investigation of what caused the explosion to the insurance company Monday.

Steve Costello, vice president of grain handling, said he expects repairs to begin Monday.

Already, officials said snow and frigid temperatures have hampered efforts to get a crane to the elevator to begin repair of the damaged legs on top of the main house.

Trucks began transporting grain stored at the facility last Friday, Costello said.

The ability to ship by rail probably won't be possible until February or March, Costello said, because the roof above the load-out bin was damaged.

How extensive damage is to the distributor that sits atop the main elevator is a big question, he said.

"Until the equipment is evaluated, we don't know a whole lot," Costello said.

The cause of the blast may never be known, Foster said.

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On Tuesday, he said 18 inspectors—representing millwright, electrical and other companies—were on site trying to figure out the origin of the explosion and assessing damage.

Costello said West Side Salvage of Atkins, IA, is almost finished removing and selling grain from the damaged main house.

Grain in the facility's steel bins and annex was not damaged.

The biggest challenge, Costello said, is executing a plan to handle

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