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294 Texas Ranger to aid Hewitt fire probe

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The scope of the investigation into a fire that killed two Hewitt boys appears to be widening.

Capt. Bob Mitchell of the Texas Rangers confirmed Friday that a ranger has been assigned to the case at the request of the Hewitt Police Department.

Neither Mitchell nor Detective Frank Latham of the Hewitt Police Department, who is heading up the investigation, would say what part the ranger will play.

Joby Graf, 9, and Jason Graf, 10, died Aug. 26 when a storage shed behind their home at 505 Angel Fire Drive exploded into flames.

Hewitt police say the explosion occurred before the fire and gasoline and paint were kept in the storage shed.

Hewitt Volunteer Fire Department members moved the shed to Donaldson Sand and Gravel in Waco. Volunteer Fire Chief Tom Lucenay said the shed was moved

as a "courteous gesture" to the Graf family.

However, moving a fire scene is at odds with the policy of most fire departments, including the Waco Fire Department.

Lt. Walter Stovall said Waco doesn't allow a fire scene to be moved until a case is closed.

Besides the Texas Rangers, the Waco Police Department, the state fire marshal's office and the McLennan County District Attorney's office are assisting the Hewitt Police Department in probing the cause of the fire.