

LA TIMES 4/12/12

TIMES.COM/BUSINESS

BUSINESS BRIEFING

AUTOS

Battery blast injures two GM workers

Two employees were injured in a lithium battery explosion that forced the evacuation of about 80 others at a General Motors Co. facility north of Detroit, authorities said.

The explosion at the Alternative Energy Center laboratory at the GM Tech Center in Warren, Mich., also caused a small fire that was quickly extinguished.

The Tech Center is home to the battery laboratory for the Chevrolet Volt electric car, but GM said the explosion was "unrelated to the Chevrolet Volt or any other production vehicle."

"The incident was related to extreme testing on a prototype battery," the auto-maker said.