

Eleven children, one adult, taken to hospital after explosion at Sydney primary school

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Two children sustained serious burns in the blast

A crime scene has been established after a science experiment explosion at a school on Sydney's northern beaches caused eleven children to be hospitalised.

One young girl was airlifted to hospital with serious injuries after what police described as a "HAZMAT incident" at Manly West Public School.

Another child was taken to hospital after sustaining serious burns in the incident, which took place about 1:20pm AEDT, while nine more students are in hospital with superficial injuries.

NSW Police have since established a crime scene at the school, a spokesperson has confirmed.

Key points:

- Eleven students and one adult were injured during the blast
- NSW Ambulance says windy weather scattered the chemicals the students were using
- The children sustained burns to their chests, faces and legs

Officers remain on site taking photographs of evidence, including an empty bottle.

NSW Ambulance Acting Superintendent Phil Templeman said the windy weather affected a science experiment being conducted outside.



Police officers at Manly West Public School after reports of an explosion. (ABC News: Harriet Tatham)

"Obviously, the wind conditions have impacted this particular experiment today and have blown some of the chemicals they were using around a little bit more than was expected, which has caused some injuries to the children today," he said.

He said the children had sustained burns to the upper body, chest, face and legs, but majority of the students were not seriously injured.

An adult also received superficial burns in the incident.

The ABC understands the children are all aged around 10 and 11-years-old from Year 5.

Education Minister Sarah Mitchell said she had offered her support to the school's principal and would be providing counselling services for students and staff.

"Investigations into the incident will be undertaken by the relevant authorities, including the Department of Education and NSW Police," she said in a statement.

"In addition, SafeWork NSW has been notified and they will carry out their own investigation in due course."

"One patient has been taken to The Children's Hospital at Westmead in the CareFlight helicopter with serious burns," NSW Ambulance said in a statement.

CareFlight confirmed the young girl was taken in a stable condition.



One child was airlifted to hospital with serious injuries after the incident at Manly West Public School. *(ABC News: Harriet Tatham)*

"One patient has been taken to The Children's Hospital at Westmead in an ambulance with a specialist medical team on board with serious burns."

A spokesperson for Fire and Rescue NSW said the "explosion" occurred outdoors.