



News Media Contact:
Kammie Michael, Public Information Officer
919.560.4322 x29195
Kammie.Michael@DurhamNC.gov

News Release

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Downtown Durham Explosion

An explosion happened shortly after 10 a.m. today in downtown Durham. One person has been confirmed dead and 15 other people have been taken to local hospitals.

Durham firefighters were dispatched to a gas leak call in the 100 block of North Duke Street at 9:38 a.m. today. Contractors were using a boring machine when they struck a 2-inch gas line.

Firefighters and employees from Dominion Energy were on the scene investigating the leak when an explosion happened around 10:07 a.m., resulting in a fire and a partial building collapse.

A Durham firefighter and a Dominion Energy employee were among the 15 people injured. Eleven people were taken to Duke University Medical Center and four were taken to Duke Regional Hospital for treatment. Their conditions are not available at this time.

Motorists are advised to avoid the downtown area.

Media Note: Further details will be released later today at a 2 p.m. press conference at Duke Street and Fernway Avenue.