

NEWS RELEASE

University of Oregon

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Explosion

A Eugene structural engineer, John Herrick, reported Tuesday that the University of Oregon's Prince Lucien Campbell Hall is still structurally sound after an explosion in the building Friday evening. He said an inspection of the building showed no noticeable structural damage to floors, bearing walls, and footings.

University President Robert D. Clark said it was fortunate that more extensive damage was not caused by the explosion, and that no one was hurt in the blast.

Clark cautioned that, in the absence of evidence, it is futile to speculate on the source or cause of the explosion.

"This is a matter for law enforcement investigators to determine, and until evidence becomes known any attempt to place blame for the explosion is unwarranted," he said. "It could have been coldly calculated by off-campus or campus persons, or, as seems more likely, it could have been an act of sheer madness.

Tuesday the building, which contains 106,831 square feet, was completely in use except for 2,800 square feet of area in the northwest ground floor and first floor. This area includes ten offices and four toilets, and cannot be used until completely rehabilitated.

(more)



Explosion 2-2-2

About 3,000 square feet of secondary damage such as damage to electrical service, plaster, walls, ceilings, and light fixtures, was caused, but this area is still usable, according to a report from the University Physical Plant.

Another 3,000 square feet received minor damage, and there was minimum water damage.

The Physical Plant reported that, with the exception of some telephone service, service for utilities, including heat, light, water and power, should be fully restored to all of the building except the heavily damaged 2,800 square feet area where the explosion took place.

J. O. Lindstrom, University director of fiscal affairs, said the replacement value of the entire building is listed at \$3,174,770. Although the Eugene Fire Department has used a figure of \$50,000 as the amount of damage caused, Lindstrom said there is no official estimate of damage.

A representative of the State Restoration Insurance Fund was scheduled to meet with Lindstrom and other University officials Tuesday. Lindstrom said he hoped that work would be authorized to proceed to restore the damaged areas fully on an emergency basis.

It has been determined that the explosion was powerful enough to drive a baseball through a two-inch plaster and metal lath wall and two windows.

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