

Gold Coast Baby, Two Men Hurt in Fire Pit Blast

August 24, 2025

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HELENSVALE, Gold Coast A fire pit explosion at a Helensvale home sent an eight-week-old baby girl and two men to the hospital on Saturday afternoon, authorities confirmed.

Emergency services were called to a residence on Ewingar Court just before 5 p.m. following reports of a fire-related accident. On arrival, crews found significant damage and smoke, with residents reporting a loud blast.

A man in his 30s suffered severe burns covering 50 percent of his body and was rushed to the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital in critical condition. The infant, an eight-week-old girl, sustained burns to her face and was transported to Gold Coast University Hospital in a stable condition. A second man, aged in his 60s, sustained burns to one leg and was also admitted to Gold Coast University Hospital.

Neighbors described the incident as terrifying. "It was terrifying," one resident said. "We immediately called emergency services and stayed clear of the house. It all happened so quickly." Authorities confirmed no other individuals were injured.

Fire investigators remain on site, assessing whether the explosion was caused by equipment malfunction, human error, or flammable materials placed too close to the fire pit. Officials have urged residents to exercise caution when using backyard fire pits and outdoor heaters, particularly during dry and windy conditions. Even small embers can ignite nearby materials, causing serious injury.

Experts recommend safety measures, including using protective barriers around fire pits, keeping a fire extinguisher or hose nearby, and never leaving fires unattended. The incident highlights the potential dangers associated with outdoor fire appliances, especially in residential areas.

The Gold Coast community has expressed concern for the victims, with neighbors offering support and assistance to the families affected. Emergency services praised both bystanders and first responders for their rapid actions, which likely prevented additional injuries.

Authorities have asked anyone with information regarding the incident to contact the Gold Coast Fire and Rescue Service. Police confirmed that the investigation is ongoing and will continue until the exact cause of the explosion is determined.

This accident serves as a reminder of the importance of fire safety in homes across Australia. Residents are encouraged to review local safety regulations and take precautions when operating fire pits or other open flames, ensuring a safe environment for families and neighbors.