Three arrested following Bow Street explosion

THREE local youths have been arrested by police investigating an explosion which destroyed a Welsh Water-owned storage building in Bow Street on Saturday night, causing £40,000 worth of damage.

The blast at 8.45pm was heard across the village, and Aberystwyth fire-fighters were quickly on the scene to put out the resulting fire.

The precise cause of the explosion is being investigated by police, fire officers and a forensic scientist, but it is understood that two gas cylinders were found in the building, although Welsh Water deny that any inflammable materials were stored there.

A police spokesman said: "I can confirm that three local youths arrested in connection with the explosion have been released on police bail pending further inquiries."

Michael Hayward, of Rhydhir Uchaf, Comins Coch, told the Cambrian News that he telephoned 999 immediately after the blast.

He said: "It was a hell of a loud bang. At first, I thought a plane or something had crashed. I dialled 999, then went to the scene.

"The flames were leaping really high. The building had been blown to bits. But there was no damage to any other building, and the nearest houses are two fields away."

"Two water tenders and an emergency fire tender from Aberystwyth, plus a Machynlleth crew attended. Firemen set up floodlights, and remained at the scene until midnight."

Aberystwyth fire station officer Steve Evans said: "We had numerous confused calls, mentioning an explosion and a fire. When we arrived, the gates to the compound were locked, and we stayed a safe distance away while attacking the blaze.

"We are holding back on a report until we find a cause of the explosion."

"The building was used for storage, but I can say most definitely that there were no inflammatory materials kept at these premises."

"The incident has caused £40,000 worth of damage. But there were no problems caused to any other equipment at the pumping station."

UP IN FLAMES A Cambrian News reader captured the blaze on camera