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Steel blast victim dies in hospital

Morning Telegraph Reporter

Sub-Officer Robert Smith died in Northern General Hospital yesterday - three days after he, 10 other firemen and two workers were injured in an explosion at British Steel's Tinsley Park Works.

Sub-Officer Smith, aged 47, of Cartmell Road, Woodseats, Sheffield, was stationed at Darnall.

He served in the Sheffield Fire Brigade for 23 years. He leaves a wife and a son, Christopher, aged nine.

Funeral arrangements have not yet been made.

According to a spokesman for Northern General Hospital Fireman Paul Parkin, of Bramley Drive is "very seriously" ill in the hospital's intensive care unit.

Firemen Robert Gorman, of Greenwood Road and Peter Child, of Smalldale Road are both in a "satisfactory" condition, said the spokesman.

Satisfactory

According to a spokesman, for Wharncliffe Hospital, Station Officer Brian Ellis, of Foxwood Road, Intake, is "very satisfactory".

He was able to get out of bed and walk about, the spokesman said.

The six other firemen and two BSC workers were allowed to go home after treatment on Monday night.

A Sheffield Fire Brigade spokesman said an inquiry was held yesterday among fire and British Steel officials into the leakage of iron oxide slag from a furnace and an explosion on Monday afternoon.

He said the inquiry was held to discover the cause of the explosion, not to lay blame on anyone.

"We are satisfied with our findings. Because of the death of one fireman we cannot at this stage discuss the investigations."