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## Explosion Sparks Massive Fire In Southern Ontario City Of Barrie

A huge fire triggered by an explosion at a restaurant gutted at least three buildings on Friday in the downtown core of the southern Ontario city of Barrie, police said.

The blaze appears to have started around midnight with an explosion in a restaurant and quickly spread to neighbouring businesses on the main street, Barrie police Const. Ron Hunt said.

"All we know thus far is there was an explosion," Hunt told CBCNews.ca.



More than 100 firefighters, including crews from neighbouring areas, battled to contain the fire, Hunt said.

The main blaze was extinguished by about 5:30 a.m. ET but firefighters were kept busy dousing hot spots, the Canadian Press reported.

The initial explosion was so powerful that it sent the restaurant's door flying across the street and blew out the windows.

So far, no injuries or deaths have been reported and there is no indication of anyone missing.

Matt Barry, a bartender at a local pub, said he heard the explosion and watched as flames spread.

"Within an hour, the whole building was on fire and the roof had caved in," said Barry. "By that point, it was just an inferno."

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