

7 injured in accident at fireworks unit

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Virudhunagar: Seven workers suffered burn injuries in a blast that took place at a fireworks manufacturing unit in Karseri near Mathiasenai near Sivakasi on Monday. Three of them are said to be critical with grievous burn injuries and were taken to a private hospital in Madurai for further treatment.

The accident occurred at 2pm while the workers were involved in drying chemical pellets used in fancy fireworks manufacturing. The pellets - mixture of chemical cocktail to give colourful effect in fireworks - are volatile and said to be the reason for most of the fireworks accidents in Sivakasi. All seven workers in the vicinity suffered burn injuries.

Upon hearing the blast, the remaining workers fled the premises. Fire and rescue department vehicles rushed from Virudhunagar and Sivakasi and doused the fire. Among the injured M Shanmugathai, Nagappan and K Kolunji suffered more than 75% burn injuries and were taken to a super-specialty hospital in Madurai, while the remaining were admitted in private hospitals at Sivakasi, officials said.

Sivakasi tahsildar, C Baskaran, special tahsildar for matches, Muthulakshmi, district SP, P Aravindan inspected the accident spot. Amathur police have registered a case in this regard. According to police sources, the factory was a 65-room unit licensed by Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation, Nagpur. The factory owner has been identified as Shenbagaraj from Sivakasi. A complaint has been filed and police are investigating further, sources said.