

A natural gas explosion occurred this morning in Durham killing one person, injuring a firefighter and sending 17 people to the hospital. According to news reports, the explosion happened just before 10 a.m. at 115 N. Duke Street when a contractor hired by Kaffeinate coffee shop located in the building drilled into a gas line. Reports indicate that required permits had been obtained by the contractor, but officials state an investigation will take place.

Those nearby at the time reported a "huge explosion" and "gigantic blast" that shook nearby buildings. It is reported that the building, referred to as the Studebaker Building, partially collapsed in the explosion. Nearby buildings have been evacuated.

The building is owned by a west coast company real estate company. Other tenants in the building include Prescient Company and Main Street Clinical Associates.

The explosion was less than a mile from the Martin & Jones Durham office. Our hearts goes out to the family of the deceased and to everyone injured in the explosion.

Martin & Jones law firm has helped dozens of people who have suffered [burn injuries](#). Our attorneys have recovered more than \$10 million for clients ranging from \$5,000 to \$3 million per recovery. Recovering from burn injuries is very costly. A lawyer who understands how complicated and critical these injuries can be is vital in allowing a burn victim and their family to focus on healing and caring for their loved one.