

Fire Dept: Powerful blast led to Kuantan fire incident

By T.N.Alagesh, ASROL AWANG - April 28, 2022 @ 1:21pm



Pahang Fire and Rescue Department director Datuk Dr Wan Mohammad Zaidi Wan Isa said the department's Forensic Unit was still trying to identify the cause of the blast which rocked the neighborhood about 3.15am today. - NSTP/ASROL AWANG

KUANTAN: A massive explosion caused the fire which killed a two-year-old boy and injured five others including an eight-month-old baby at Jalan Permatang Badak Perdana 2 here today.

Pahang Fire and Rescue Department director Datuk Dr Wan Mohammad Zaidi Wan Isa said the department's Forensic Unit was still trying to identify the cause of the blast which rocked the neighborhood about 3.15am today.

"We are investigating if a gas cylinder exploded or it was set off by fireworks. Initial investigations revealed there was a gas cylinder at the scene and some fireworks were found near the house....we have yet to confirm the cause.

"If the blast was caused by fireworks then we need to look at the quantity which triggered such a massive explosion," he told reporters when met at the scene here today.

Wan Mohammad Zaidi said the blast which damaged two houses involved a total of nine victims including the two-year-old baby who was killed in the incident. All the injured victims were taken to the Tengku Ampuan Afzan Hospital here.

Earlier, it was reported that the fire incident had also razed three cars which were parked in the vicinity.

Meanwhile, checks at the damaged units saw large holes on the walls and some sections had collapsed believed due to the powerful explosion.

Neighbours claim the explosion was so loud that it could be heard from 15km away and the blast had shattered window panes of several houses in the vicinity.

Most of the residents were preparing for sahur (pre-dawn meal) when the blasts went off.

Faridah Mamat, 56, said she was cooking for sahur about 3am when she heard an explosion followed by a second blast.

"The fire spread fast and the neighbours could not do anything to help. Some of us alerted the fire department and helped arrived several minutes later," she said when met at the scene.

Meanwhile, Muhammad Ibrahim, 50, said he was helping his wife in the kitchen when he heard the explosion.

"It was so quiet and suddenly there was a loud bang! I panicked and told my wife we must leave the house. It was then that we heard another blast.

"When outside, we realised that a nearby house was on fire. Our neighbours had gathered outside their homes and some wanted to go near to help, but the heat was just unbearable," he said.