



Gopher Laughs Last After Blast

Associated Press

Ceres, Calif.

An explosion at an elementary school that sent 19 people to the hospital was caused by three maintenance workers trying to freeze a gopher to death with gum remover, officials said.

The Fowler Elementary School janitors were blown out of a utility room Monday

when one of them tried to light a cigarette after spraying the rodent with a freezing solvent.

The building was damaged and sixteen pupils near the explosion suffered minor injuries. None was hospitalized.

The gopher survived. Police later released it into an empty field.

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