



Walgrave boy injured by live mortar round

Added: Wednesday 23 November 2011

POLICE are warning of the dangers of handling ordnance following the recent experience of a 16-year-old Northamptonshire boy who was injured when a mortar round he was dismantling exploded.

The youth, who lives with his family in the village of Walgrave, had purchased the mortar round online from a website advertising specialist auction material.

Police in Northampton are investigating offences under the Firearms Act after a 'live' decommissioned Spanish 81mm mortar round came to be in the boy's possession.

The boy was dismantling the round at the family home when it exploded, injuring his fingers and damaging the desk on which it had been placed.

Detective Sergeant Andy Rogers, of Northampton CID, said, "This incident could potentially have resulted in Luke sustaining a much more serious injury.

"As it was, his fingers were burned and the table he was sitting at was damaged.

"Anyone taking apart ordnance of any description should exercise the greatest care when doing so.

"Messing around with any ordnance is potentially very dangerous. If you discover ordnance of any description, steer clear and contact the police immediately.

"We need to know how this mortar round was still 'live' and available for purchase in this country and, to that end, we are investigating to see whether any criminal offences have been committed under the Firearms Act".

Contact Us

Emergency (crime in progress): 999

Northamptonshire Police: 101

CrimeStoppers (to remain anonymous): 0800 555 111