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Student injured in Acton High mêlée Damage 'spoils' year-end fun

High-spirited year-end pranks escalated from harmless fun to intentional acts of vandalism and injury on Tuesday afternoon as Acton High School grads celebrated the last day before exams begin.

An unidentified female student was burned on both legs by a firework set off in the school's Bear Pit area. She was treated at the scene by an EMS

As a result of the injury, and concerned with there could be more fireworks in the building, Principal Darlene White called 911, and evacuated students more than 30 minutes before the scheduled end of

Earlier, rowdiness by a handful of students included soaking people with water balloons and water guns, fireworks were set off in the school and glass doors at the front entrance were smashed in separate incidents. An 18-year-old student has been charged with mischief in connection with \$400 damage done to one door.

"A firework is an explosive device and that's against the Fire Code, and the minute anyone

that, it's considered an assault by the Safe Schools Act," White said after the incidents on Tuesday afternoon.

White said she needs to do whatever possible to ensure that students are safe. "We need to foster a culture of respect for one another, and I think some of the students today...there was just general disrespect," White said, adding the incident 'spoiled" the grads' celebrations.

Several students who witnessed the events said it was somewhat "scary" when things began to get out of hand. One student, Eric St. Pierre, said it was fun until someone threw a water balloon at him and his \$1,500 camera and laptop computer. Earlier in the day, graduating students followed the tradition of blocking the

gets hurt, or anything like entrance to the school, but later in the day, things got out of hand.

"This wasn't in the spirit of a prank – it was potentially much more disruptive," White said, adding they, and Halton police, are investigating so they can "catch the perpetrators...who must understand the seriousness and the consequences."

Halton police high school community officer, Constable Rob Del Villar, said the investigation is in the early stages, and may be helped by some video tape footage.

"If we find out who is responsible, we will lay charges – it could be assault with a weapon because the firecracker was used in the commission of an offence," he said on Tuesday, adding the incidents occurred when "one or two individuals made a bad choice."



Internal injuries No word on the condition of a 47-year-old rural Acton homeowner who suffered internal injuries when a tree fell on him as he was cutting it down. Police, firefighters and EMS crews were called to the property on Highway 7, east of the Sixth Line, at 1:08 on Sunday afternoon. The man was taken to Georgetown hospital. No other details were released.

Faulty detector

oxide detector was blamed

A broken carbon mon-

for an alarm activation at 6:45 last Monday morning on Dr. Moore Court. Acton firefighters were unable to detect any trace of the deadly gas.

Ride's over

A citizen's tip led to drunk driving charges being laid against a 47-year-old Acton man, arrested on McDonald Boulevard at 2:05 on Sunday afternoon as he got into a car. He was charged with impaired and having care and control of the vehicle while impaired.

