

WASC 822

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On Her Majesty's Service

WASC 822

Chestnut and Waltham Weekly Telegraph
Waltham 1974 11.18-74

Flixborough blast 'could not happen here' says ERDE

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Since the explosion at the Nypro chemical plant in Lincolnshire on Saturday, which killed 28 people and severely damaged the village of Flixborough, fears may have arisen over the safety of the Government's Explosive Research and Development Establishment at Waltham Abbey.

But there is no need for alarm.

"It could not happen here," said a spokesman for the ERDE this week.

The main reason that it could not happen at Waltham Abbey is that the ERDE store only small quantities of explosive

substances on the premises—nothing like the amount that was stored at Flixborough.

"We deal with the research and development of explosives here and there is no need for us to store large quantities of explosive materials," said the spokesman.

He explained that strict precautions were taken with explosives within the establishment.

"We do not keep all explosives in one store. They are housed in several stores scattered around the grounds," the spokesman explained.

He added: "If in the unlikely circumstances something did go wrong and there was an explosion in one of the stores, it would be contained to that area."

"It is impossible for all the explosives to go up at one time."

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