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Still 'Critical'

Morning Telegraph Reporter

Sheffield fireman Frank Mallinson, injured in a mystery blast during a cafe fire early yesterday, was still in a critical condition late last night.

Mr. Mallinson, aged 28, a father of two, is in the intensive care unit at the Royal Hospital.

He was in the blazing cafe wearing breathing apparatus and took the full force of the explosion. He received extensive burns and a broken arm.

Other firemen in the basement of the Mermaid Café, Norfolk Street fought their way upstairs to carry Mr. Mallinson from the shattered mezzanine floor.

The blaze caused extensive damage to the cafe. The shop front was ripped away by the force of the explosion and left sagging over the pavement.

A police spokesman said last night that arson inquiries had been discontinued.

Fire brigade officers are still uncertain as to what started the fire, and from where the blast emanated.