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PCB spill closes offices

BINGHAMTON, N.Y. — More than 1,100 government workers were told to stay away from their desks today as workmen tried to clean up a spill of toxic PCB in an office building. A series of explosions rocked a utility room in the governmental center in Binghamton just before dawn Thursday, forcing the closing of city, county and state offices and a nearby YMCA. Authorities said 29 people, including 22 city firefighters and a police officer, were taken to Binghamton General Hospital for examination after they were exposed to fumes containing polychlorinated biphenyls, suspected of causing cancer.

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