

SURVIVING A BOMB BLAST

By Sarah Jane Lee



1 It was another day in the sweltering heat when Tommy and I decided to retreat to the nearby mall. We were strolling in the mall, discussing the latest mobile game, 'Warrior Worlds'.

2 5 "My avatar's way cooler than yours," rebutted Tommy as he playfully shoved me aside and ran down the corridors of shops.

3 I was ready to give chase when a shrill, deafening explosion ruptured the building.

10 The ceiling caved in, cracks snaked through the ceramic-tiled flooring and rubble was scattered in all directions. Glass panels shattered instantly at the resounding blast, and furniture was overturned.

Around me were people frantically seeking out their loved ones from the wreckage.

4 15 Flung back by the shock waves with a ringing in my ears, I mustered all my strength to pick myself up. Around me were people frantically seeking out their loved ones from the wreckage. Blood-curdling shrieks of terror and horrified faces surrounded me - I could feel people's panic emanating from their very being.

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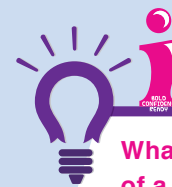


5 After struggling to my feet, trying to recover from the shock, I lumbered forward and glanced desperately
25 around with a sole thought – “Where was Tommy?” Each step taken confirmed my greatest fear: did the worst happen to him? I squinted amidst the haze of dust and debris hoping that one of the blurry figures would be him. Despite wanting to find Tommy immediately, I could
30 not bear to ignore the people in need of a helping hand. Those trapped under heaps of rubble, or children whose parents were nowhere to be found were led to safety as the police and paramedics began streaming into the building. In the chaos, I offered my hand to anyone
35 searching for medical assistance or needing a shoulder to support their frail, injured selves.

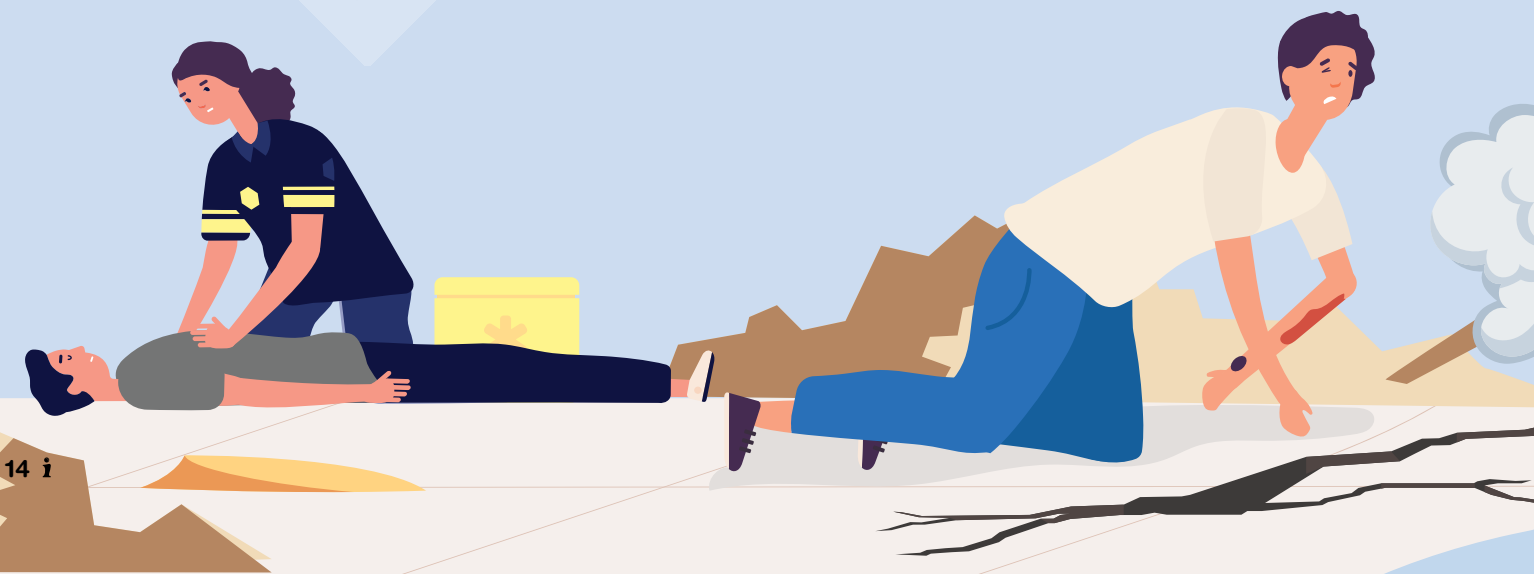
6 After accompanying an elderly woman to the paramedic, I heard a faint echo from behind. It was all too familiar, and while the buzz of emergency
40 vehicles and people filled the area, I spun around to see a bleeding Tommy on the ground. A wave of relief overcame me, and I dashed to his aid. His eyes met mine, caught between a moment of fright and calmness. Having scarcely missed running straight into the line of
45 explosion, he recounted how he had squeezed through the narrow passageways to escape from the collapsed ceiling. I ⁴hoisted him up and together, we slowly walked away from the most eventful day of our lives, still unable to believe that we had just experienced a bomb blast.

Word Bank:

- 1 **resounding:**
loud
- 2 **mustered:**
encouraged something such as an emotion or support
- 3 **emanating:**
to express a quality or feeling through the way that you look and behave
- 4 **hoisted:**
to lift something or someone heavy



What are the consequences of a bomb blast? What have you learnt from historical events about bomb blasts and their effects?





Sky News: Beirut blast caught on camera

