

## Article Assignment List

BREAKING NEWS: SNHU Explosion. Need to get this out ASAP. All-hands on deck situation.

### Contacts:

Dr. Angelina Jane, Biology Professor

Ellen DeRipley, Student

Brick Thickerskull, Student

## SNHU Press Release // Statement from Paul LeBlanc:

### **SNHU Response to Campus Explosion**

June 24, 2020

SNHU Communications

At Southern New Hampshire University, our top priority is the safety and well-being of the SNHU and Manchester community. With that being said, it brings us great sadness to confirm that an explosion did occur on our campus last night and resulted in a power outage along the east coast. However, we are so thankful that no one was harmed.

The explosion occurred at approximately 8:40 last night on the west side of campus. While no one was harmed in the accident, many buildings were damaged, including The Green Center for Student Success, The Robert A. Freese Student Center, Stark Hall, Exeter Hall, and Kingston Hall.

The Manchester and Hooksett Fire Departments arrived promptly to the scene, quickly containing the fire. The fire concluded at 9:20 p.m, according to Manchester District Fire Chief Flameo Hotman. Damage is estimated to be about \$1.2 million. 402 students in Kingston Hall were evacuated and bused to a hotel for the night.

At this time, the cause and origin of the explosion are unknown and still under investigation. Although it is highly suspected to be the result of a faulty gas main. SNHU will be fully

cooperative and transparent with local law enforcement. However, we have no reason to believe the explosion was intentional.

Due to the extensive damage, President Paul LeBlanc has ordered the campus to be closed. “It is with a heavy heart that I close campus for the remainder of the semester. The loss of academic and residential spaces is detrimental, however. We will work quickly to rebuild and hope to return to campus when we can offer a quality learning experience,” he said. Students have until the end of the week to move out. If accommodations are necessary, please reach out to [fire@snhu.edu](mailto:fire@snhu.edu).

“The closure of campus has nothing to do with safety. Rest assured that SNHU is safe, and I am certain that the cause of this explosion is nothing more than an unfortunate accident,” LeBlanc added.

We encourage all students, faculty, and staff to practice honesty at this time and ask you to refrain from the continual spread of rumors about the fire. In particular, we’d like to address the rumors of a ‘secret experiment’:

- There are no ‘secret experiments’ being conducted at SNHU.
- An evening biology class is scheduled on Tuesday evenings but we can confirm this class is a part of the School of Arts and Sciences regularly scheduled academic curriculum for this semester.
- Dr. Angelina Jane, the biology class’s professor, was the first person to alert us of this potential problem after hearing a strange noise.
- All 12 students in the class were quickly evacuated.

SNHU leadership values you. If you are experiencing distress, please reach out to [wellness@snhu.edu](mailto:wellness@snhu.edu).

Inverted Pyramid:

## Inverted Pyramid of Journalism

