

Chemical Alert after Two Women Commit Suicide at London Hotel

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Police and fire services were called to the Costello Palace Hotel on Seven Sisters Road in Finsbury Park, north London just before midday.

The bodies of the two women, one in her 30s and one in her 50s, are believed to have been found by cleaning staff.

A police source said that the two women were believed to have committed suicide by ingesting a noxious powder.

A spokeswoman for London Fire Brigade said: "We are treating this as a confirmed chemical incident. The hotel has been evacuated and cordon implemented."



Emergency workers take precautions following the suicide of two women who ingested a noxious powder Photo: (Eddie Mulholland)

A Met police spokeswoman said: "Police were called at 11.53am today to Costello Palace Hotel, Seven Sisters Road, N4, after two people were found deceased.

"The bodies remain at the scene. We await confirmation regarding their sexes and cause of death.

"Police and London Fire Brigade are in attendance. The hotel has been evacuated as a precaution."

Police cordoned off all roads near to the hotel causing traffic disruption in the area. The Costello Palace is an austere grey building situated in an area lined with hotels.

A number of fire service staff dressed with specialist breathing equipment attended.

A police spokeswoman said officers were working to make the area safe as a large number of onlookers gathered in Finsbury Park opposite the hotel.

Guests staying at the hotel said it had been fully booked on Saturday night with around 70 people thought to have stayed.

Graham Cannon, 43, from Halstead, Essex, had come to London to watch a music concert.

He explained: "I've been coming here for six years. It's cheap and cheerful, it's only £65 for a double room and it's really convenient if you want to go into the centre of London.

"We came down for breakfast this morning at about 8.30 and it was absolutely packed. Nothing seemed wrong at all then. We were laughing and joking with the manager. Everything was normal. You don't have to check out of here until 11 so I suppose the staff didn't even find the bodies until after then."

Eileen Early, 43, from Great Dunmow, Essex, said: "It's just awful when you think about it. It's such a shock to realise that this has gone on while we were inside the hotel."

Source: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/5268845/Chemical-alert-after-two-women-commit-suicide-at-London-hotel.html>