

HazMat Fire Discussion

HazMat Fires



Photo credit: Fototaker.net

Homer Seafood Plant Explosion/Fire

Homer seafood plant explodes

Posted: Thursday, July 02, 1998

Shops reopened this morning on the Homer Spit near a burning seafood processing plant.

After letting the Icicle Seafood Plant burn for 12 hours, the Homer Fire Department began actively suppressing the flames late Wednesday night, said Homer Fire Department spokeswoman Patti Whalin.

Campers, tourists, anglers and other people evacuated from the five-mile-long isthmus and its small harbor Wednesday were allowed back about 9 a.m. today. Fire officials urged people with respiratory problems to continue avoiding the area because of smoke.

The only person seriously injured in the explosion, cannery employee Max Mitchell, remained in critical but stable condition this morning at Providence Alaska Medical Center in Anchorage. Mitchell, 57, was tightening a fitting on ammonia piping when the line broke, releasing a jet of ammonia that knocked him down and drenched him in the caustic liquid. The ammonia caused burns on his arms and chest.

Cannery personnel called an ambulance and evacuated the plant at 11:10 a.m. Wednesday. Moments after the 45 workers left the 60,000-square-foot plant, some of them running through ammonia fog to reach exits, the building exploded and burst into flames. The roof lifted off and landed in the Alaska State Ferry parking lot next door. Workers were sitting on cars less than 100 feet away watching when the building ignited.

Firefighters let the building burn Wednesday afternoon rather than face the hazardous chemicals inside, said Bill Morse, a spokesman for the Homer Volunteer Fire Department. An ammonia cloud from the leak and explosion wafted over the nearby bay, avoiding the popular tourist town, but workers, homeowners and more than 200 passengers from a cruise ship docked nearby were evacuated as a precaution.

The Coast Guard estimated that some 42,000 gallons of ammonia were stored at the Icicle plant along with an unknown amount of propane.

Fishing and seafood processing are a key source of employment in Homer, 125 miles south of Anchorage, and plant workers are known to camp on the spit within walking distance of their jobs.

The company said it would continue to buy fish from the Homer fleet for processing at an Icicle plant at nearby Seward. Julie Aydelotte, a Seattle-based spokeswoman for Icicle, said Homer workers would be offered a transfer to Seward.

Campgrounds and boat harbors dot the spit, along with some homes and commercial buildings and a large hotel. The area, popular as a Fourth of July weekend getaway, was evacuated in less than two hours Wednesday; authorities said it would reopen today.

The explosion occurred just 200 feet from a Princess cruise ship, docked for the afternoon at Homer en route from Vancouver, British Columbia, to Seward.

Homer High School sheltered 270 people evacuated from the spit and Seldovia on Wednesday night, Whalin said. The cruise ship company bused passengers Wednesday night to Nikiski, 80 miles north of Homer, where they were to re-board the Island Princess at an industrial dock that can accommodate the 650-foot ship.

Shana Loshbough of the Peninsula Clarion, Rosanne Pagano of the Associated Press and Kristan Hutchison of the Juneau Empire contributed to this report.

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- What happened next?

NAPA Fire - Fairbanks



NAPA Fire - Fairbanks

- [C:\Users\tbones\Videos\Videos\Napa in Fairbanks Alaska on Fire.mp4](#)
- [C:\Users\tbones\Videos\Videos\May 26, 2011 Napa Auto Parts Fire, Fairbanks, Alaska.mp4](#)

NAPA Fire - Fairbanks



NAPA Fire - Fairbanks

- Initial fire department actions
- Concerns – Exposures
- Response Actions
- Injuries – Initial
- HMRT Requested
- Contamination
- Additional Injuries
- Follow-up

Hooper Bay Fire



MAPPA Fire Fairbanks

- Soil density testing company
- North Star FD / North Pole FD
- Pre-Incident Plans

MAPPA Fire Fairbanks

Jan. 5, 2001 — Fire ripped through a Richardson Highway construction testing business early Thursday morning, destroying an estimated \$500,000 in equipment and releasing a small amount of radiation.



Specialists with the state Department of Environmental Conservation speculated the radiation came from soil density meters with radioactive cores. The company, Mappa Inc. at 1956 Richardson Highway, uses the meters to test cement and asphalt strength.

The site will be investigated today by a state expert and an expert from the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission in Texas, according to Brad Hahn, emergency response program director at the DEC.

The radiation levels, found just at the edge of the building, are not considered a threat.

"If you were to stand there at the edge of the building, you would have to stand there for at least 10 hours, more toward 100 hours, to get an exposure equivalent to a chest X-ray," Hahn said.

Barge Fire



Barge Fire



Barge Fire



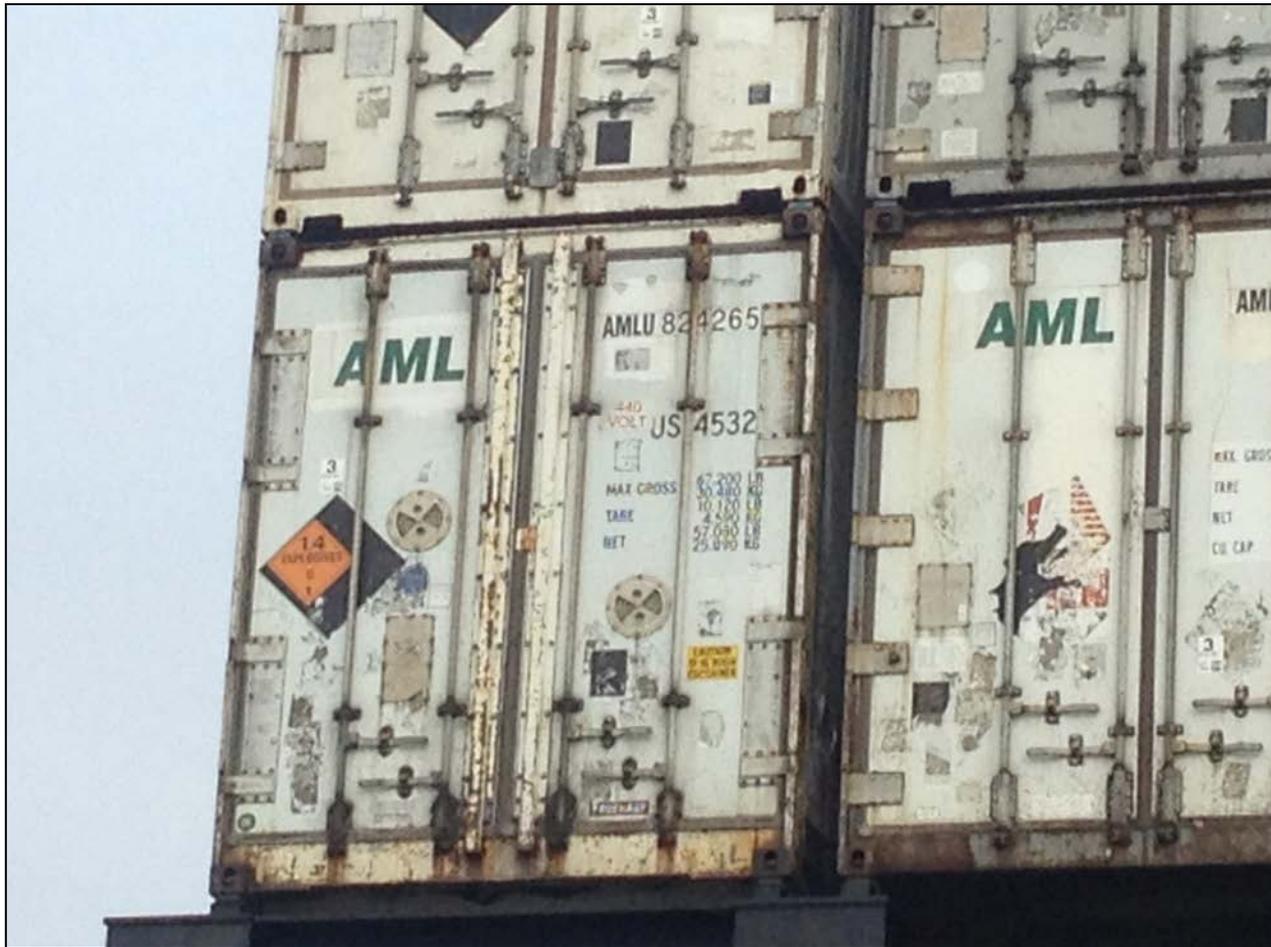
Barge Fire



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Others...