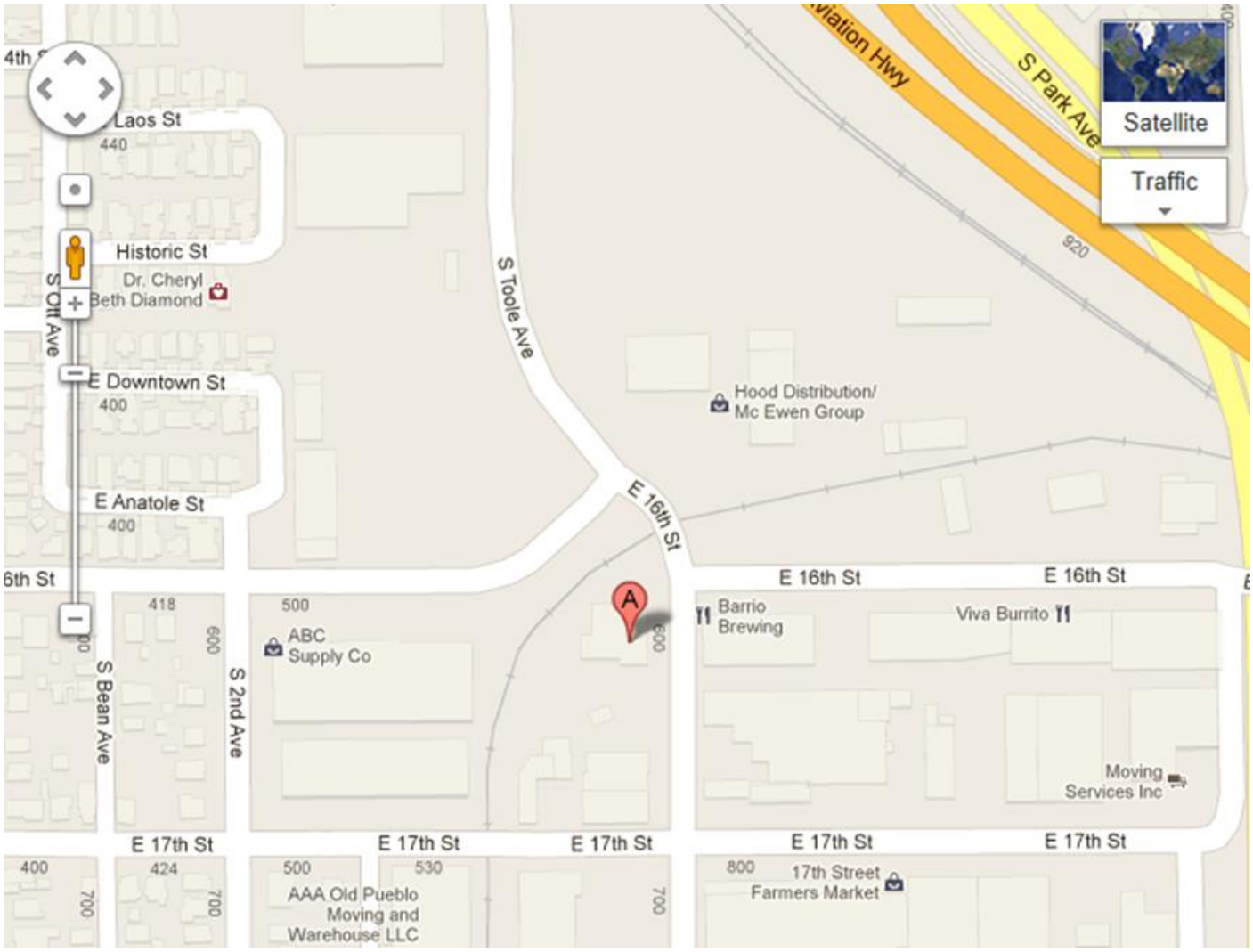
Tucson Fire Department

1970 Copper State Chemical Fire, 3rd Edition

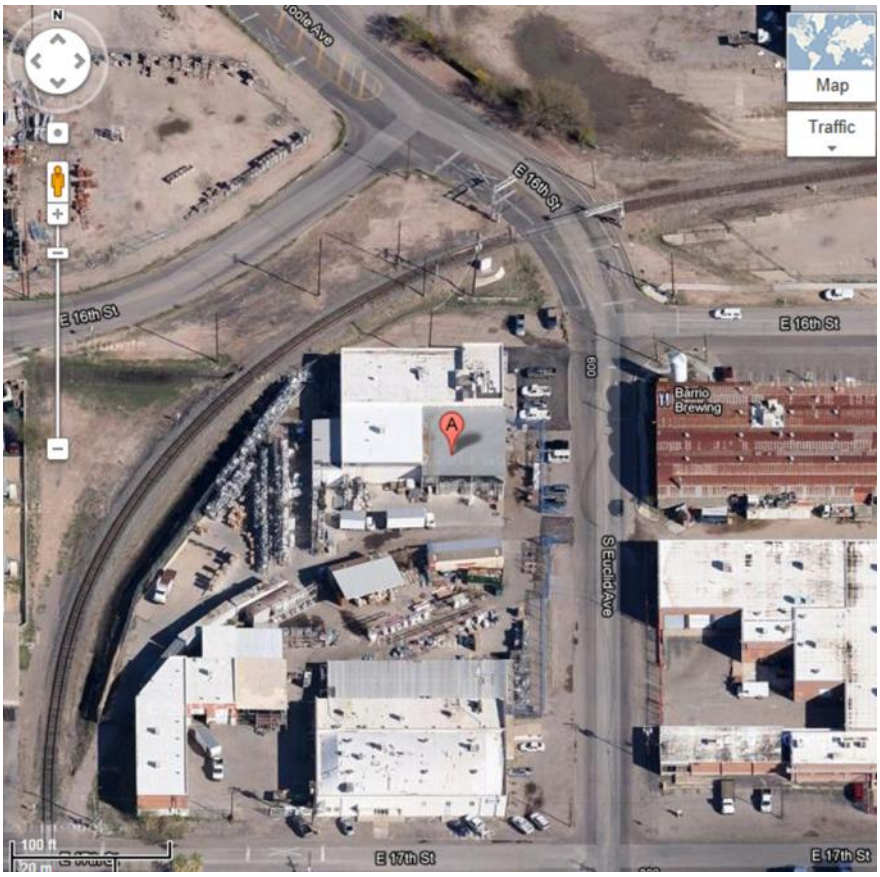
Copper State Chemical Fire, July 2, 1970, MR#0038

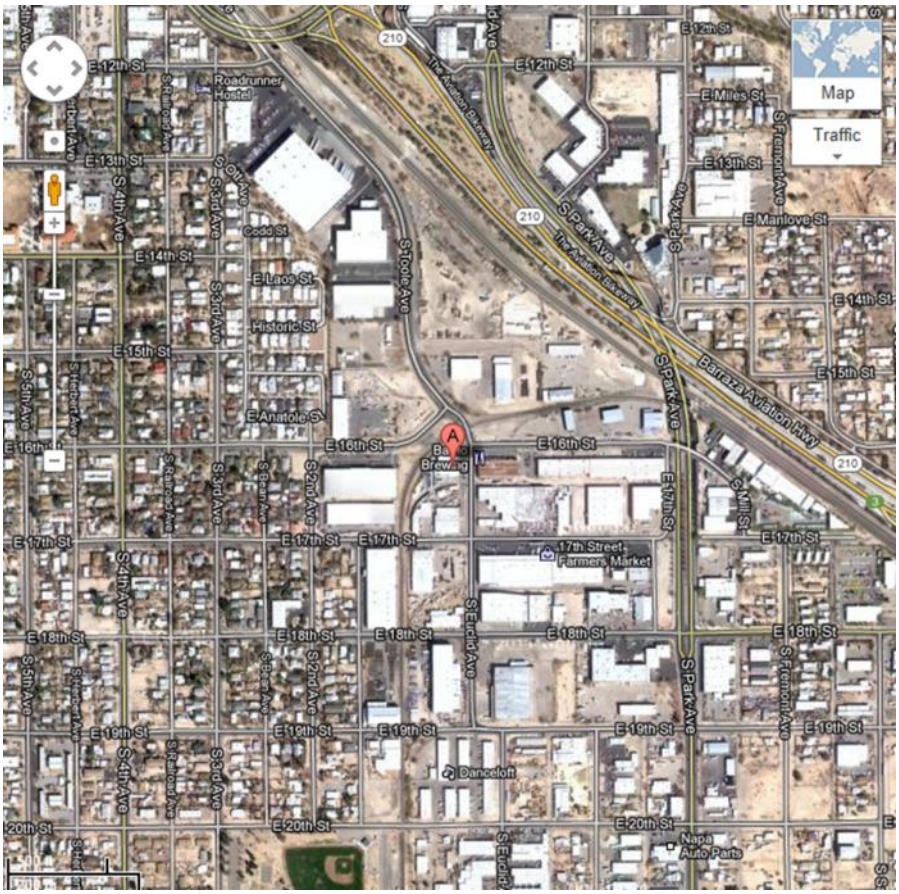
848 East 16th Street, Tucson Arizona— **Today 2012**



Copper State Chemical Fire, July 2, 1970, MR#0038

848 East 16th Street, Tucson Arizona— **Today 2012**





Copper State Chemical Fire, July 2, 1970, MR#0038

July 3, 1970, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Ten Cents

The Arizona Daily Star

FINAL Edition

VOL. 129 NO. 175 TUCSON, ARIZONA, FRIDAY, JULY 3, 1970 FORTY-FOUR PAGES

Tucsonans Stricken By Fumes

CHEMICAL PLANT EXPLODES

Toxic Gases Released

Flames and smoke from yesterday afternoon's fire at the Copper State Chemical Co. billow into the air following massive explosions which ripped off the roof. The blaze caused an estimated $330,000 damage to the plant's two buildings and sent 74 persons to hospitals suffering from effects of toxic fumes. Another picture on Page 1B. (Sheaffer Photo by Lew Elliott)

Copper State Chemical Fire, July 2, 1970, MR#0038

July 3, 1970, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Ten Cents

The Arizona Daily Star

FINAL Edition

VOL. 129 NO. 175 TUCSON, ARIZONA, FRIDAY, JULY 3, 1970 FORTY-FOUR PAGES

Tucsonans Stricken By Fumes

CHEMICAL PLANT EXPLODES

Area's Residents Forced To Flee

By MONTE GAST and RICHARD GILMAN
Star Staff Writers

Fire and a series of violent explosions raged through the Copper State Chemical Co. at 748 E. 16th St. yesterday afternoon, razing two large buildings and sending 74 people to city hospitals.

Hundreds of residents were forced to flee the fire's chemically polluted smoke and fumes in an area north and west of the plant.

Approximately 70 people were treated and four others were admitted at St. Joseph's and St. Mary's hospitals and Tucson Medical Center.

The hospitals said that many of these were firemen, but the exact number had not been determined. Four policemen were treated.

Admitted were Eric Gaskell, South Tucson policeman, 627 W. Calle Medina, for observation at St. Joseph's; and three firemen at TMC, Ronald Kwart, 1158 S. Carnegie Drive; Harry Putney, 1234 E. Circle Drive, and Robert Zuniga, 1304 E. Miles St.

The blaze, which caused an estimated $330,000 damage to the brick buildings and contents, according to Capt. Ellis Franklin, fire information officer, started about 4 p.m. with a small explosion in a stack of bottled weed killer. An employee, Luis Lecompte, 17, of 5510 S. Canada Drive, said he heard a sound like a lightbulb popping and saw two of the gallon bottles explode into flames.

"I ran from the building yelling 'Fire'," he said. "Then all of the bottles exploded. By the time I got outside, the whole building was on fire." All 13 of the employes in the building and office at the time escaped without injury, according to William C. Skoug, company president.

He said the building and contents were insured and admitted that saving anything was nearly impossible. "I always knew that if we ever had a fire, you might as well go to Mt. Lemmon and watch the fireworks from there."

Fed by numerous flammable chemicals the fire had the two-building plant completely involved by the time firemen arrived. Toxic fumes and explosions added to the hazards.

to products stored by Paroid of Houston, a division of the National Lead Co. of Houston. Also destroyed in the fire was a high-strength bleach plant at the rear of the buildings.

Franklin said fire officials were especially concerned about the two tons of chlorine in a box car and storage tank adjacent to the structures. At one point, he said, firefighters deluged the boxcar and tank with 30,000 gallons a minute from six hoses in order to keep them cool and prevent further explosions.

Dr. Donald Morgan, head of the pesticide division at the University of Arizona, arrived on the scene about 5:15 p.m., warned that the smoke and runoff water were extremely toxic and advised fire officials that residents be evacuated from areas of heavy smoke concentration.

The chemical plant fire was only a few blocks away from the old Pacific Fruit Express ice plant two blocks south on Euclid and Tyndall Avenues, that was destroyed by fire last April. That blaze caused an estimated $125,000 in damage and sent two firemen to the hospital suffering from burns they received after an ammonium tank explosion.

The five-alarm blaze brought 10 engines, three ladder trucks and two rescue vehicles to the scene and an estimated 100 firefighters fought for about an hour before bringing the fire under control, according to Franklin. At least 19 firemen succumbed to the toxic fumes and were taken by ambulance to several hospitals, suffering from irritated lungs, eyes and skin.

Alkalis, sulphates, brominates, HTH, dry acids, acetone, benzine, chlorate borate and chlorine were only a few of the chemicals feeding the flames, according to Skoug. His company was the low bidder on a contract to supply Pima County with agricultural, weed-control, sewage treatment and pest control chemicals for 1970, and Skoug said he couldn't even begin to name all the products stored in the plant.

He estimated $95,000 in losses to Copper State inventory, and an additional $100,000 loss

Copper State Chemical Fire, July 2, 1970, MR#0038

July 3, 1970, *Arizona Daily Star*:

STAR - JULY 3, 197

'Like 4th Of July,' Says Firm's Head

By DAVE KELLOGG
Star Staff Writer

"There was one big explosion. From then on it was like the Fourth of July," said William C. Skoug, president of the Copper State Chemical Co., as he watched firemen battling a $330,000 blaze at his plant.

Skoug said the explosion, caused by a new weed killer that he didn't know needed refrigeration, went through the roof, just as he and 12 employes fled the fire.

"The explosion was a humdinger," said Skoug. "It sounded like a freight train had run into the back of the building."

The five-alarm fire was under control within an hour. Fear of vapor contamination from a two-ton chlorine tank, and vapors from water runoff kept firemen on the scene into the evening.

Capt. Ellis Franklin, information officer for the Tucson Fire Department, said that more than 20 firemen were sent to the hospital after inhaling chemical vapors. Franklin said the fumes created mucous in the lung area and was irritable to the eyes and skin.

Because of dangerous fumes from the water runoff, Tucson police patrolled the streets in the area, advising residents to stay inside their homes and away from the water.

Tom Price, director of the City Sanitation Dept., said his crews followed the water runoff to the Santa Cruz river. He ordered a bulldozer to the riverbed to construct five small dams so the water would be contained and seep into the sand.

The chemical content of the water had not been immediately determined and samples were taken to the University of Arizona. It was hoped analysis would indicate whether the water was injurious to humans and to tires and other materials with which it had come in contact.

A number of Civil Defense workers were called by Phil Mead, assistant civil defense director, to man flooded intersections and advise motorists and pedestrians of the danger in going through the water.

Peril Feared From Water

Tom Price, director of the city Sanitation Department, watches excess water used in fighting a fire at the Copper State Chemical Co. as it flows toward an impoundment dam in the Santa Cruz river bottom. The water was stored behind a series of five dams as a precaution against harm to humans or materials pending a chemical analysis. (Sheaffer Photo)

Copper State Chemical Fire, July 2, 1970, MR#0038

July 3, 1970, *Tucson Daily Citizen:* ***See next page***

Tucson Daily Citizen

Fly Your Flag Tomorrow July Fourth

CITY ACTS TO GUARD WATER IN FIRE'S WAKE

VC Mobilize For Attack On Cambodia

Gen. Abrams In Surgery

Truckers Contract Reported

Clouds May Keep Heat Moderate

Inside Today's Citizen

Bridge	23
Comics	24
Crossword Puzzle	23
Deaths	23
Editorials	24
Financial News	25, 26
Movie Times	23
Public Records	23
Sports	20-22
TV Radio Chats	23
Weather	24
Women's Page	8, 9

At Fire's Height; A Victim

Water is shot 75 feet on the Globe and Rio Space's structure in the well-fated here, during the fire yesterday at Copper State Chemical Co. At left is Fire Capt. A. S. Lopez, of Superior, who was treated for gas inhalation.

CLEANUP OPERATIONS

Chemical Disaster Committee Gathers

Some City Area Wells Shut Down

Nation Marks Birthday Tomorrow

French Hillroads Is Exploited

Copper State Chemical Fire, July 2, 1970, MR#0038

July 3, 1970, *Tucson Daily Citizen:* ***See next page***

— Citizen Photos by Ross Humphreys

At Fire's Height; A Victim

Water is shot from an aerial ladder and fire fighters scramble to lay additional hose during the fire yesterday at Copper State Chemical Co. At left is Fire Capt. A. S. Lopez, of Station 6, who was treated for gas inhalation.

Copper State Chemical Fire, July 2, 1970, MR#0038

July 3, 1970, ***Tucson Daily Citizen:*** ***See next page***

CLEANUP OPERATIONS

Chemical Disaster Committee Gathers

By NEAL SAVAGE
Citizen Staff Writer

A disaster committee from the Chemical Industry Association was gathering in Tucson today to direct cleanup operations at fire-ravaged Copper State Chemical Co.

Also being flown here from other cities was a team of agents representing the firm's insurance carrier, according to Copper State president William C. Skoug.

Tucson firefighters began pouring water on the blaze at 748 E. 16th St. shortly after 4 p.m. yesterday and did not start putting away hoses until about 11 a.m. today.

The explosion and fire sent at least 71 persons to hospitals. Three firemen remained in hospitals today, but they were reported in satisfactory condition.

Fumes still hung over the area today as specialists from the University of Arizona and the chemical industry started cleanup operations.

Miraculously, Skoug and 13 employes fled the building unhurt just seconds before the roof was blasted into the air and then crumbled down on the exploding, burning building.

Firemen said the blaze was sparked by a container of apparently unstable weed-killer which exploded from the heat and triggered chain-reaction blasts.

In addition to fighting the main blaze, firemen had to hose down a nearby natural gas firm's tanks and a warehouse.

Even today the runoff continued in all four directions and was considered dangerous. The water, which looked like soap suds during the height of the blaze and mopup operation, was running into storm sewers and drains to the east, north and south, and into the Santa Cruz River bed to the west.

Arterial streets going into the scene remained controlled today by police, who continued to warn motorists and others of the hazard.

The Fire Department, which last night ordered the immediate area evacuated, also called in some 80 off-duty men. Throughout the evening about 110 men fought the fire, although they were not all on the lines at the same time.

Efforts today were directed on two fronts — "fogging" down the entire area for possible leaking gas or pockets of gas, and high-pressure hosing down of a concentration of clay-like chemicals in an attempt to reduce them to mud. The fogging oper-

(Continued on Page 3)

Copper State Chemical Fire, July 2, 1970, MR#0038

July 3, 1970, *Tucson Daily Citizen:* ***See next page***

Fire Fighters Still Pouring On Water

From Page 1

ation creates a high humidity condition and dilutes the gases and other liquid material that are toxic.

Skoug said the roof was blasted off and tumbled down in a matter of seconds.

Skoug said he expected to be back in business in a few days at a warehouse which has been loaned to him.

Among those who required treatment were at least 30 firemen and six newsmen.

Police Lt. John Filipelli prowled the area until he collapsed a block from the fire. He was treated for inhalation of fumes and for exhaustion at St. Mary's Hospital, and then released.

Officers said he was getting out of his squad car to talk with Police Lt. Thomas Keeley when he collapsed. Keeley reportedly was about to send the fellow officer home after patrolmen and firemen began sickening.

Spot fires along a nearby railway siding and a fence around butane and propane tanks owned by Home Gas Co., 125 E. 7th St., were extinguished quickly.

Puffs of smoke and a persistent smell of gas prompted firemen to continue hosing down the Copper State Rubble and fire hydrants were turned on at about five locations between the fire and South 6th Avenue to help flush the chemicals along streets into sewers.

store electric power after cutting away one burned cable that threatened to drop on firemen.

The blaze sent thick clouds of black, gray, white and brown smoke rolling over most of downtown Tucson as gusts of wind up to 15 miles per hour whipped out of the south.

Explosions of chemical bottles — at least three dozen — ranged from muffled pops to loud booms and sent pieces of tin, steel, glass and paper flying for more than a block.

Two ladder trucks, with aerial hoses 85 feet in the air, and a half dozen engines together sprayed 30,000 gallons of water per minute on the blaze until it was out two hours later, then continued spewing 5,000 to 10,000 gallons per minute on pockets of escaping gas.

An investigation was planned of the weed-killer solution that exploded, Skoug said. He declined to identify the brand name or the manufacturer, the latter of which he described as "one of the biggest, oldest and most experienced" chemical firms in America.

Skoug said the weed-killer was not marketed and was shipped here for experimental use. The president said similar solutions are distributed by Copper State for use on roads, parks and airport properties by governmental agencies.

Skoug's 25-year-old firm also distributes swimming pool chlorine to retailers here.

Skoug said his warehouse was in perfect condition when the trucked shipment of "four or five cases" of the chemical arrived Wednesday for storage. He said his staff assumed the chemical would survive warehouse temperatures in which similar but more concentrated chemicals were kept.

Skoug had surveyed the shipment and the warehouse and was congratulating his superintendent when two one-gallon bottles of the shipment exploded. As the men rushed to dilute the leaking fluid with water, the entire shipment began exploding.

"Someone yelled fire!' and we all headed for the door," Skoug said.

Heavy chemical suds similar to dishwasher suds built up along five feet-wide streams of contaminated water in spots that reached the hubcap level on autos.

Firemen sprayed water on unexploded 1,000-gallon tanks of chlorine and on a boxcar on the plant's railway spur outside the south wall.

Part of the burned buildings and the contents was owned by the local Stock Baroid division of National Lead Co., of Houston. Copper State is the distributor of the company's products.

During the second of five fire alarms Engine 7 collided with an auto in the 300 block of South Country Club Road. The car's driver was hospitalized and the fire engine was put temporarily out of service.

Jerry Hawkes, 16, of 357 E. Prince Road, was treated and released at Tucson Medical Center with head injuries received when his car was struck by the truck about 4:20 p.m.

Fire Department officials said the youth apparently made a left turn from a side street in front of the truck, driven by engineer James Hammarstrom.

Officers said Hammarstrom managed to swerve the speeding truck to avoid a more serious crash.

"God bless it — they all got an exit," he said of his workers. Skoug sustained a first-degree burn on one arm but refused medical treatment.

Of seven autos parked outside the building, three were burned but four were pushed to safety.

Three utility lines on overhead poles burned, causing a telephone blackout for several blocks in all directions for the night.

Tucson Gas & Electric employes waited until today to re-

July 3, 1970, *Tucson Daily Citizen:*

Some City Area Wells Shut Down

By HARRY CLINE
Citizen Staff Writer

City officials took extreme precautions against possible contamination of the city's water supply today as water flowed into the Santa Cruz River after being used to battle a $350,000 chemical firm fire.

But pollution fears abated at noon as City Water Director Frank Brooks said he learned from chemists that the mixture of chemicals involved in the explosion and blaze that destroyed the Copper State Chemical Co. building are the kind that will "break down" as the water seeps into the river bed.

Two million gallons of water was poured onto the blaze through the night and flowed along gutters from the firm, located at 748 E. 16th St., to the Santa Cruz, slightly more than a mile away. The water took with it acids, alkalis, solvents, phosphates and salts.

"We were very fortunate," Brooks said today. "Built into the thing were caustic soda and chlorides that are neutralizers for this type of chemical. There's apparently no reason for undue alarm concerning contamination of underground water supply."

But Brooks said the city will take the precautions anyhow and keep wells shut down in river areas downstream from the point where the water ran in.

the Community Studies Pesticide Laboratory at the University of Arizona.

Smoke puffed from the building with the explosion and drifted northwestward, causing some concern among firemen as it began to settle at the edge of the city. But there apparently was no ill effect there.

Firemen and policemen working in the fire area began suffering nausea, sore throats and a tightening in the chest. Most were released after treatment but were not allowed to return to duty.

Fire Capt. Ellis Franklin said today that other firemen who did not go to the hospital had similar symptoms today.

Officials said today they did not anticipate widespread serious aftereffects from chemical inhalation. However, they warned persons in the fire area last night that breathing the fumes could lead to pneumonia.

But it could have been worse, said entomologist Roan.

"Fortunately we are in pretty good shape," he said, "because of the chemical combination in the building.

Luckily, he said, there were more herbicides than pesticides involved, and chlorine in the

(Continued on Page 3)

"We will not pump any water from any areas north of that point if there is any possibility any of this will get into the supply," Brooks said. "We will continue to take tests in the next two or three months until we are completely assured there is no possibility of any problem."

He said only a few wells are located in the area, the closest about a mile downstream and 1,000 to 2,000 feet from the river.

Chemists today were still getting samples from the water and the fire scene for analysis.

Seventy-one firemen, policemen, newsmen and residents of the chemical firm area went to hospitals last night for treatment after breathing the chemicals, but only three firemen were admitted after emergency treatment.

City Sanitation Director Thomas Price had five earthen dams constructed hastily last night in the Santa Cruz to prevent the flow of the polluted water.

Horace M. Babcock, Arizona water resources chief for the U.S. Geological Survey, was confident that chemicals will undergo sufficient change as the water seeps through sand and gravel strata to preclude any danger. And his opinion was echoed by Dr. Clifford Roan of

July 3, 1970, *Tucson Daily Citizen:*

FRIDAY, JULY 3, 1970

Pollution Feared In Fire Wake

From Page 1

building acted as a detoxicant to curb the effects of the more deadly chemicals.

One of the major problems now, said Roan, is disposal of the burned chemicals. A team of commercial specialists was to arrive in Tucson today from other cities to work out disposal of the chemicals.

Among their jobs will be determining how to wash 18,000 feet of fire hoses to remove the chemicals. Roan originally had feared that the hoses would have to be burned, but this was later discounted.

The chemicals in the burned-out building will be scooped up wet by bulldozers, put into trucks and dumped in a "safe" place for burial.

"There's no good answer," said Roan about the possibilities of where the chemicals will be dumped.

Roan and Dr. Donald Morgan, also of the UA lab, are conducting blood tests on the injured firemen.

Gases were still coming from the fire this morning.

County Health Director Dr. Frederick Brady arrived on the scene this morning and began checking for food handling establishments northwest of the burned chemical company that might have been affected by the fumes.

Winds from the fire carried fumes away from the nearby Rainbo Bakery, Cox Produce warehouse, Tucson Prime Meats and Swift and Company offices.

Originally, Dr. Roan had speculated that the bakery would have to be checked for possible contamination, but this was ruled out this morning when he declared, "no problem. I've been eating their rolls all morning."

He said any contamination would be noticeable by taste.

Ray Dolih, superintendent at Rainbo, said had the wind been blowing from the north, the bakery would have suffered a $500,000 loss in bakery ingredients, not including bread prepared for delivery and that in the 1,000 loaf ovens.

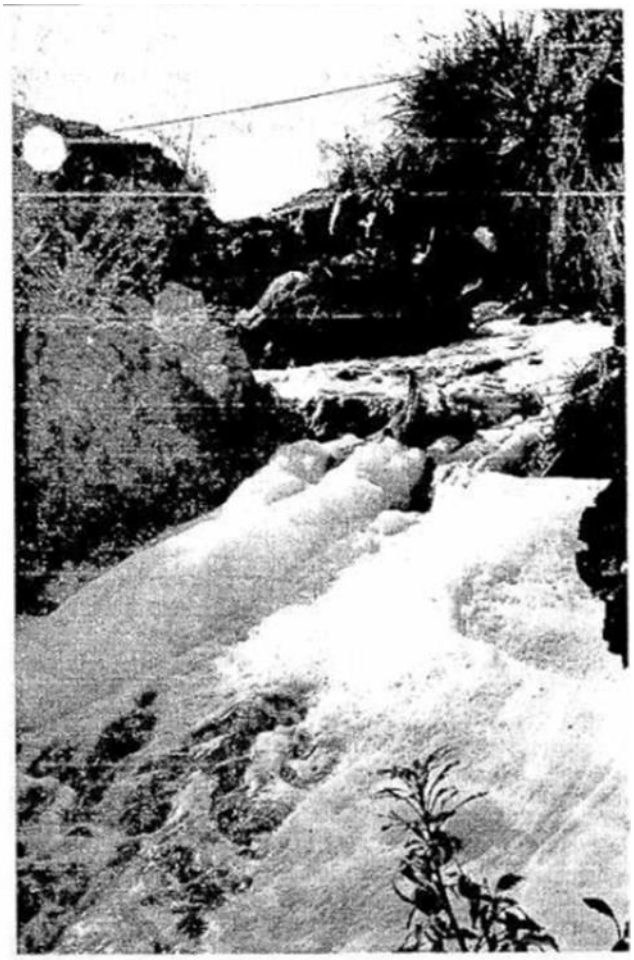
Franklin said the fire department received many calls from residents northwest of the fire complaining of nausea, including reports from as far away as the Cortaro area.

Fire department officials last night wanted areas near the fire evacuated, but some residents were told by policemen to stay in their homes. One radio station was telling people to stay inside their homes and turn air conditioners on.

Franklin steadfastly denied such a report came from the fire scene. He said air conditioners would only draw the fumes through homes.

Company president William C. Skoug at the scene this morning said the Tucson Fire Department "has been fighting this fire for 25 years" and because of preplanning, no serious injuries were suffered.

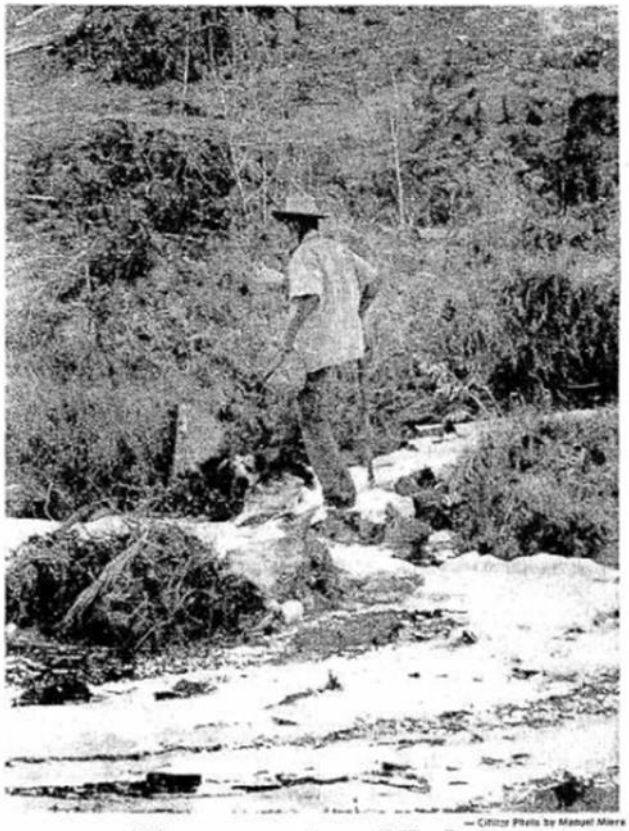
Preparation for such an eventuality prompted Skoug to keep all company records at his home he said, adding his employes were prepared for possibility of the fire and that was the reason 12 persons in the building escaped unhurt.



River Runoff Alarms Officials

Laden with chemicals ranging from chlorine to pesticides, 2 million gallons of water from firefighting efforts at Copper State Chemical Co. cascaded into the Santa Cruz River today, most of it flowing in just upstream from the Congress Street bridge. City water officials, alarmed at the possible effect on drinking water, shut down water wells in the area.

July 3, 1970, *Tucson Daily Citizen:*



— Citizen Photo by Manuel Mieres

Unsuspecting Wader

An elderly man waded the Santa Cruz River today, apparently not knowing the stream he forded contained potentially dangerous chemicals in the runoff from firefighting at the Copper State Chemical Co. blaze. A shoe came off in the mud, and the man stopped to pluck it out of the ooze. As a photographer attempted to shout a warning, the man disappeared.

— Citizen Photo by Richard Luna

Testing Possible Effects

Dr. Donald P. Morgan of the Community Studies Pesticide Laboratory, University of Arizona, tests for organic phosphates as lab men checked chemicals that went into the air and water used for firefighting at the Copper State Chemical Co. blaze. Blood tests of firemen and others involved also were taken.

Tired Firefighters

Fireman Jerry Adams (with oxygen mask) and Engineer Rudy Arriaga, both of Station 1, rest during fire fighting operations yesterday at the plant of Copper State Chemical Co., 748 E. 16th Street.

— Citizen Photo by Richard Luna

Delivering Warning

A Tucson Police Department sergeant warns an occupant of a home near the Copper State Chemical Co. fire yesterday that she should remain indoors or leave the area.

Copper State Chemical Fire, July 2, 1970, MR#0038

Courtesy *Tucson Fire Department 1881—1981:* **July 2, 1970**

Copper State Chemical Co. July 7, 1970 – toxic chemicals and polluted air were prime hazards. *(Arizona Daily Star photo).* Left: Firefighters H. Reilly & B. Wells emerge from the smoke while fighting grease fire at Ramada Inn. *(Arizona Daily Star photo).*

Copper State Chemical Fire, July 2, 1970, MR#0038

July 4, 1970, *Tucson Daily Citizen:*

Workmen Clearing Fire Scene

By THOMAS BABCOCK
Citizen Staff Writer

Bulldozers and dump trucks moved into the still-smoldering remains of Copper State Chemical Company today, and salvage workers expected to have removed all of the rubble from the building shell by nightfall.

Robert Marsh of Action Wreckres, who will clean up the remains of Thursday night's $350,000 fire, said he "broke up a lot of parties last night" to put together a maximum work force to remove and bury the debris today.

"We don't know that anything is contaminated," said City Sanitation Director Tom Price, "but we'll dispose of it as if it was radioactive."

The disposal site is in a regular city dump off South Craycroft Road, south of Interstate 10. City sanitation workers have dug 12-foot-deep trenches to take the tons of mud, charred wood and wet chemicals to be removed from the burned-out building.

This morning, fire department personnel, who have been camped at the scene since the fire was doused early yesterday, still were spraying down a section of the building where smoke continued to curl from a mound of rubble.

Water runoff, still dammed in containing pools in the Santa Cruz River, was declared safe today by Dr. C. C. Roan, a member of the Community-State Pesticide Studies program at the University of Arizona.

Roan said tests on samples taken by the Pima County Health Department showed amounts of chlorine and methyl bromide, a weed killer. He said water nearer the river was more diluted, since firemen had opened every available fire hydrant yesterday to wash the contaiminated water away.

Roan said the amount of chemical left in the water now presents "no probability of any contamination or hazard to health."

By the time the water percolates to the water table, it will not be harmful, he said. His laboratory will continue to test samples from area wells as long as the city wants them done.

Roan said he was still unsure of the stability of several gas tanks in one corner of the building, particularly ones on which nozzles were melted. He said he would test them before anyone tried moving the tanks.

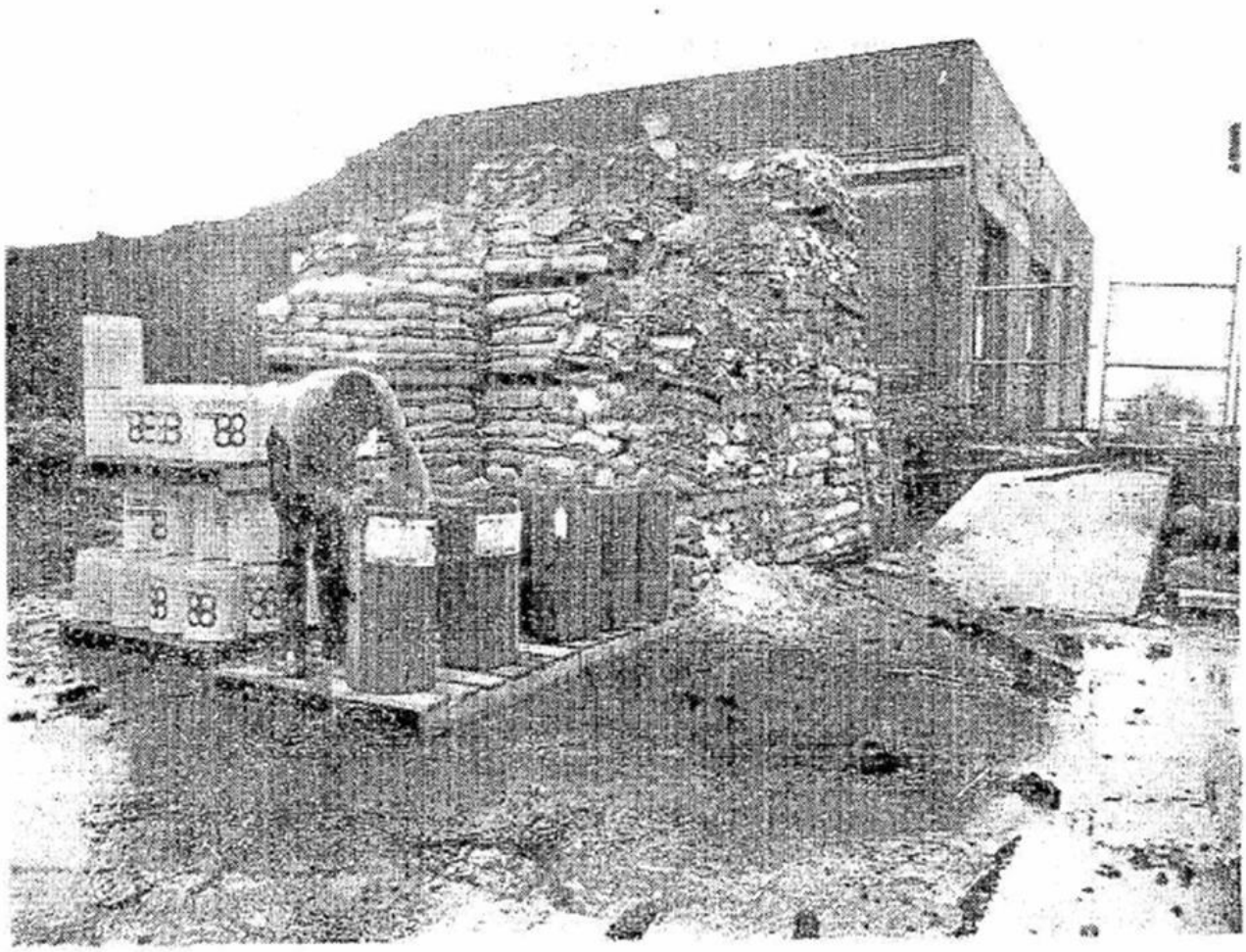
Yesterday two police lieutenants, at Roan's request, shot holes in several tanks to let their contents dissipate.

"I don't think any of these tanks really will be a problem," Roan said. "If they didn't blow during the fire, they probably are okay. But you never know. They might go when you put a fork lift to them or strike a spark nearby."

According to Copper State owner William C. Skoug, a committee from the Chemical Industry Association will probe the fire to determine why it happened.

Copper State Chemical Fire, July 2, 1970, MR#0038

July 4, 1970, *Tucson Daily Citizen:*



— Citizen Photo by Richard Lunn

The Salvage Job Begins

Amid a sea of contaminated water flowing from the gutted warehouse of Copper State Chemical Co., 748 E. 16th St., warehouseman Ray Daniel inspects a container of sulfuric acid — one of many vats that remained intact during the plant's intense fire Thursday night. Cleanup operations began today.

Copper State Chemical Fire, July 2, 1970, MR#0038

July 6, 1970, *Tucson Daily Citizen*:

— Citizen Photo by Don Tortorelli

Dump It!

Burial of debris from the Copper State Chemical Co. fire began Saturday at the Los Reales dump. Debris was transported from the fire site to a 12-foot trench south of the Benson Highway, and covered with an overlay of soil. Possible effects of Thursday's fire are still being investigated.

Copper State Chemical Fire, July 2, 1970, MR#0038

July 6, 1970, *Tucson Daily Citizen*:

City Will Study Fire Protection

Mayor James N. Corbett today called for a report on steps the city could take to better protect residents from fires similar to the Copper State Chemical Co. blaze last week.

The City Council approved the suggestion. City Manager Roger O'Mara and other officials are to make the report "as soon as possible."

The mayor said, "The holocaust last week indicates sufficient precautions have not been taken with explosives. Something like this obviously jeopardizes the citizens of this community."

He also said the runoff of dangerous chemicals in water from the fire "has jeopardized the underground water supply of this city." He did not elaborate.

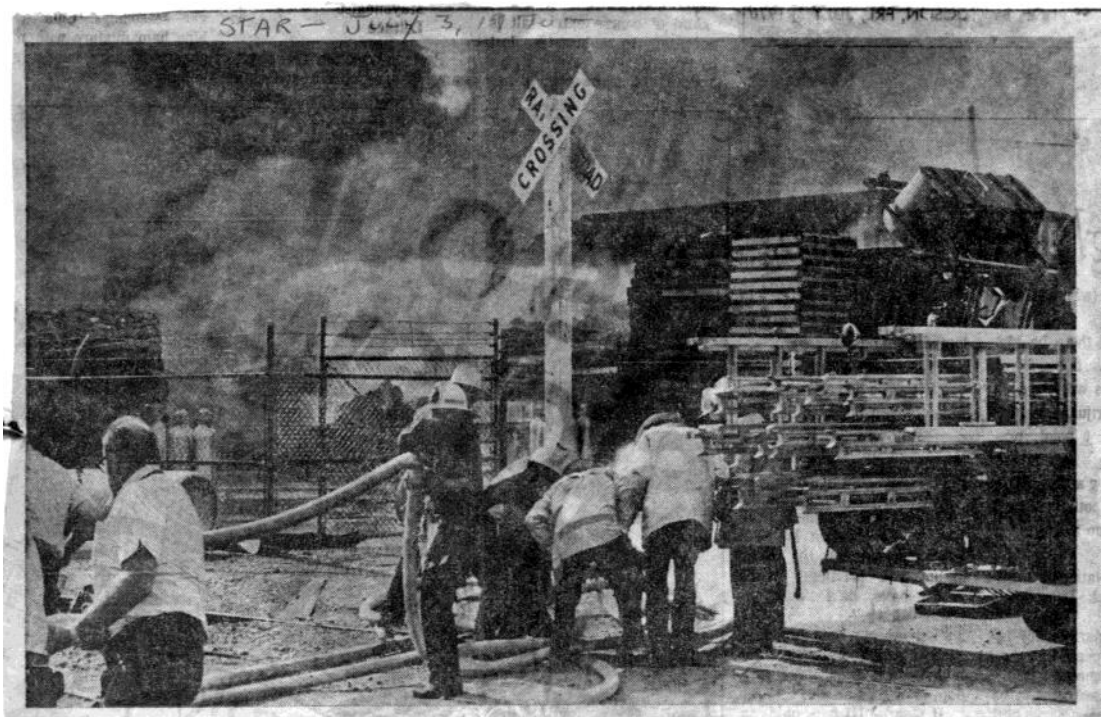
Other spokesmen for the city and University of Arizona experts have said the water supply was not in danger from the runoff.

Corbett and the other council members did not suggest what protective steps the city might take. Zoning, however, is one tool talked about immediately after the fire.

Copper State Chemical Fire, July 2, 1970, MR#0038

July 9, 1970, *Arizona Daily Star*:

STAR — July 3, 1970



Volunteers Help In Emergency

Citizens help firemen move a hose yesterday in the frantic moments immediately following a series of explosions that ended in a destructive fire at Copper State Chemical Co., 748 E. 16th St. More than 20 firemen required treatment at local hospitals and hundreds of persons evacuated their homes in the immediate area as a result of the blaze. (Sheaffer Photo)

The Copper State Fire

July 9, 1970 Star

Tucson experienced last week one of its more serious fires, the destruction of the Copper State Chemical Co. on E. 16th St. The monetary loss has been estimated at more than $300,000, but the toxic fumes released by exploding chemicals could have been much more serious than they were.

The city's fire department demonstrated exceptional ability in preventing spread of the flames to adjoining businesses. The sanitary department constructed dams across the Santa Cruz to hold back the chemical-laden water used to extinguish the blaze.

The fire reportedly was caused by the explosion of a weed killer that had been shipped to Copper State without instructions that it must be refrigerated.

While several persons, including firemen, were affected by the fumes, there were no deaths and no known serious effects.

The question has been raised as to whether such a business, handling combustible chemicals, should be located so close to downtown. It and many other potentially dangerous businesses were established before the area was so well developed.

In restructuring the city, planners should give thought to isolation for potentially dangerous businesses. However, such businesses should not be grouped because one explosion could cause disaster to all.

Copper State Chemical Fire, July 2, 1970, MR#0038

July 14, 1970, *Tucson Daily Citizen*:

Hectic Week Left Local Firemen Craving Sleep

BY TOM DUDDLESTON Jr.
Citizen Staff Writer

"I don't think I'll ever get enough sleep," moaned Assistant Fire Chief Charles Rice while surveying his crews' activities in battling a fire recently.

That fire — at Pueblo Gardens Elementary School — was the next-to-last fire in one of the most hectic of weeks for the Tucson Fire Department.

Forty men attacked those flames, and most of them had been awakened only minutes earlier from sleep badly needed after heavy work at two large blazes earlier in the week.

The strenuous week began June 28 at Northgate Shopping Center on Grant Road with a three-alarm $199,000 blaze, requiring the work of 74 men for several hours after midnight.

The week progressed with "normal" activities — rescue runs for a near drowning and for heart attack, crash, stroke and unconscious victims, and numberous calls for brush, building, cooler and other fires.

The afternoon of July 2, mayhem broke loose, as did most of the Copper State Chemical Co. building near the downtown area.

One-hundred and ten men hit the scene to battle one of the most costly and dangerous fires in Tucson's history — a $350,000 chemical blaze complete with spewing gases and exploding containers.

Firemen slept little that night unless they were "lucky" and were sent to hospitals and home with smoke and gas inhalation problems, blistered feet or nausea.

There were more than 70 lucky men that night.

"You don't think of the dangers — only of the job you have to do," said Capt. Tony Cordova, recalling the blaze.

The fire department had "fought" that fire many times over during intensive fire prevention investigations and inspections prior to any outbreak of fire.

Copper State's owner had personally conducted firemen through the plant and many times had instructed men at Fire Station 1 on the potential dangers of a fire there.

When the explosions rocked the building and the holocaust began, firemen knew what to do, how to do it and the expediency requirement due to the nature of the building's stock.

It took them three days to finish.

Just in time for the Pueblo Gardens fire July 5, which preceded a blaze at Whitmore Elementary School the next night.

All of which amounted to more than 2,500 man-hours for a little more than a week of high-pressure work — fires, rescues and frustrating false alarms. Add on some equipment maintenance and needed "slow down" bull sessions and firemen had little time for themselves or their families.

Though the hectic week was unusual, the possibility of such occuring exists all the time.

Imagine sleeping soundly, racked-out comfortably.

Then a tone goes off — one long, sonorous blast from nearby speakers — and before it's stopped, you're up, dressed, down the shiny poles and on the streets racing to a fire with sirens and lights leading the way.

It happens frequently; that week it happened regularly ... that week sleep took a rear seat to firefighting and salvage work.

"It was the biggest week I've ever experienced ... extraordinary," says Cordova. Rice's light-hearted gripe bears evidence.

Firemen work 24-hour shifts — one shift on duty, one off. When they sleep at their stations, they do so with "quick-hitches" standing handily next to their beds.

The quick-hitch is a set of trousers already placed over a pair of boots, designed for donning with alacrity. You can't get out of bed on the "wrong side" or you miss your pants.

Capt. Ellis Franklin says it takes the men about 45 seconds to get from bed to the streets in readiness for firefighting.

"There's a real acceleration of adrenalin into their systems when that alarm goes off," he says.

By the time the men actually see what they must cope with, Franklin says, they're "chomping at the bit," thinking about the initial lay of hoses, where the hydrants are or the desired approach of the engines.

"Can you imagine getting into your clothes from a deep sleep in 45 seconds and then going to the scene to work as hard as you ever have in your life?" he asks.

"There are no time-outs," he reminds, even if the exertion a fireman faces is similar to an athlete's energy output. "You have to continue and keep working, keep working ... until you're completely spent and soaking wet."

Franklin and Cordova complain people don't realize the full schedule a fireman faces daily, instead imagining the men sitting around "waiting for a fire, watching the girls walk by ... or rescuing cats from trees."

"We have schedules from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day regardless of fires," says Cordova, "with classes on everything and many experts on many subjects talking to us."

"To say a fireman's job is strictly confined to fighting fires is wrong — in a recent year the department inspected about 56,000 homes for fire hazards alone," said Franklin.

"You have to be a 'special' brand of person to be a fireman in exceeding normal limits to protect life and property," Franklin maintains.

It's a difficult contention to doubt when Cordova tells of that "big" week and how hard and strenuous it was ... and then concludes, "but that's why we're professionals."

Copper State Chemical Fire, July 2, 1970, MR#0038

September 18, 1970, *Tucson Daily Citizen*:

... Citizen Photo by Art Grandpre

Ready-Made Warehouse

Workmen guide one of two railroad refrigerator cars into place at the Copper State Chemical Co. office. The deactivated cars will be used for storage of chemicals because they can be cooled to keep bleach and other chemicals cool in Tucson's hot summer weather. Last summer, an unstable weed killer exploded after being exposed to the heat, resulting in a $250,000 fire at the firm.

Copper State Chemical Fire, July 2, 1970, MR#0038

TFD—

INVOLVED AT COPPER STATE CHEMICAL FIRE

MANPOWER

At the Scene:	
8 Engine Cos., 2 Ladder Cos., 1 Tanker Co., 1 Hose Co., 2 Rescue	51 Men
On duty Chiefs	3
Off duty firefighters	75
Off duty, or 8 hour Chief Officers	7
Other off duty, or 8 hour personnel	8
Total at the scene	144
Off duty men reporting to duty (including 75 at scene)	83
Off duty, or 8 hour Chief Officers (7 to scene, 4 to other assignments)	11
Other personnel: (Public Ed. Officer; Adm.Assistant; Maintenance Personnel; Fire Technical Personnel; Training Personnel; Fire Prevention Personnel) 8 to the scene and 8 to other assignments.	16
Total	110

MUTUAL AID

Davis Monthan Fire Department	3 Men	1 - 500 gal. Pumper
South Tucson Fire Department	9 "	1 - 750 gal. Pumper & 1 - 1,000 gal.Pumper
Hughes Aircraft	3 "	1 - 1,000 gal. Pumper

OTHER ASSISTANCE

Civil Defense Rescue	25 Men 9 Mobile Radio Equipped Units
Dr. C.C. Roan	Reported to scene and gave technical advice in handling of chemicals.
Dr. Lin Chinn	Assisted in poison control.
Dr. Donald Morgan	Assisted in medical attention of injured firefighters.
William Skoug	Assisted in technical advice.
A & A Ambulance Co.	
Kords Ambulance Co.	
Salvation Army	Donated food.
Shakey's Pizza Parlor	Donated food.
Sambo's	Donated food.
Roland Wentzel	Provided drinking water.

OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED

Police Department	Evacuation and perimeter control
Streets Department	Barricades - also provided their fuel & lube truck
Sanitation Department	Tom Price reported to Command Post. Built dams in river to collect contaminated water which was draining into river bed.
Water Department	A representative reported to Command Post

ESTIMATED WATER USED

Estimated water pumped onto fire	1,875,000 gallons
Water flowed from hydrants to flush contaminated material from streets	500,000 gallons
Total water used	2,375,000 gallons

TOTAL HOSE USED

1½"	200 feet
2½"	10,750 feet
3 "	800 feet
Total	11,750 feet

TOTAL PUMP TIME 35.9 Hours

TOOLS USED

30 Air paks
3 Deluge sets (monitors)
2 Ladder pipes
1 Bolt cutter
1 Hose clamp
2 Hand lights
1 Resuscitator
40 Reserve air bottles (for air paks)
1 Salvage cover

LADDERS USED

Aerials	130 feet
Hand	24 feet
Total	154 feet

OTHER EQUIPMENT

2 Pick-up Trucks - #618 and #2136
1 Lube Truck (from Streets Department) #4402
1 Auxillary Power Plant (5,000 Watt) #2466

Copper State Chemical Fire, July 2, 1970, MR#0038

TFD—

Summary - Copper State Chemical Fire (Cont'd.)

INJURIES

28 Men to Tucson Medical Center	52 Smoke inhalation
19 Men to St. Josephs Hospital	28 Eye irritation
8 Men to Doctors Offices	4 Throat Irritation
1 Man - Did not go to doctor	2 Skin Irritation
	5 Skin exposed to contaminated material
	1 Nail in foot
	1 Back injury
	1 Cut on thigh
	1 With ant bites

TOTAL TIME LOST ON AC DUE TO INJURIES: 87 Days

LOSSES:

	Value	Loss
Building	$ 75,000.00	$ 75,000.00
Contents	130,000.00	130,000.00
Totals	$205,000.00	$205,000.00

Copper State Chemical Fire, July 2, 1970, MR#0038

TFD—

COPPER STATE CHEMICAL CO. FIRE
July 2, 1970

Reports of a building fire at 748 East 16th Street, Copper State Chemical Company, were received by the Tucson Fire Dispatchers a few seconds before 1603 Hours, July 2, 1970, and the response consisted of Engine 1, 2, 4, and Ladder Company 1.

Assistant Chief Sprung (Car #52) and District Chief Garry (Car #61) responded with the initial dispatch. As Assistant Chief Sprung (Fire Commander) approached the scene, he could see that the building was well involved and immediately called for a second alarm. In addition, the Fire Commander requested that two Rescue Units be dispatched because of the nature of the fire.

The second alarm, consisting of Engine 3, 10, Ladder 3, Rescue 2 and 3 was dispatched at 1610 hours. District Chief Lovio (Car #62) responded with the Second Alarm Companies.

The occurrence of a very heavy explosion, along with many minor explosions, sent flames, smoke, lumber and other objects soaring into the air. The Fire Commander, Assistant Chief Sprung, set up a Command Post at the Southeast corner of the fire building and ordered responding companies to attack the fire with master streams. In addition, he ordered all fire personnel to use self-contained breathing equipment, to stay clear of the smoke and to stay under cover as much as possible.

By this time, a "Partial Alert" - (recall of a limited number of off duty personnel) had been ordered.

Subsequent heavy explosion scattered burning material to other places of business in close proximity to the fire. The burning material started spot fires at the Home Gas Company, 127 East 7th Street - located north of and across the street from the chemical plant; The O'Mally Lumber Company, located a block north of the chemical plant; The Tucson Warehouse Co., located east and across the street from the fire building; and railroad loading docks in the area. On noticing that a tremendous exposure problem was rapidly developing, the Fire Commander declared a "Full Alert" (recall of all off duty fire personnel) and requested two additional Engine Companies.

A third alarm, consisting of Engine 5 and Engine 7 was dispatched at 1615 Hours. At 1619 Hours, Tanker 12 was dispatched to the fire scene to check the area for spot fires.

While Engine 7 was responding, it was involved in a minor vehicle accident and was unable to proceed to the fire scene. At 1620 Hours, Engine Co. 11 was dispatched in its place.

By order of the Fire Commander, Engine Co. 6 was dispatched to the scene at 1628 Hours to bolster the Master Stream Operations. Hose 1 was dispatched at 1658 Hours to provide additional hose.

Battalion Chief Garry (Car #61), took command of the North and Northwest sector of the fire area. This included the spot fires located at the Home Gas Co., the railroad loading dock, and the O'Malley Lumber Co. - which were quickly extinguished by hand lines and a deluge set.

Battalion Chief Lovio (Car #62), took command of the Southwest sector, which was primarily responsible for keeping the chemical tanks on the South Side cool and to place Master Streams in action on the fire.

Chief Amaro took command of the East sector, which placed a ladder pipe, a deluge set, and hand lines into operation to protect exposures on the South Side and to place streams on the main part of the fire.

Chief Montoya took charge of the operation of apparatus and equipment until it became necessary to relieve Chief Garry, at which time he took command of the North and Northwest sector.

Battalion Chief Garry (Car #61), made a request for additional police to control the large crowds gathering at the fire scene.

Copper State Chemical Fire, July 2, 1970, MR#0038

TFD—

COPPER STATE CHEMICAL CO. FIRE
July 2, 1970

A heavy, toxic smoke was being emitted from the fire due to the various kinds of chemicals, insecticides and herbicides which were stored in the building in large quantities. A few of the chemicals were: Chlorine, Nu-Weed Killer, Paraquatic, Korlan, Praniatol, Polyfor Chlorates, Anhydrous Amonia, and Amonium Nitrate. The Police and News Media were advising all persons to stay clear of the heavy, toxic smoke. The atmosphere in the direct path of the smoke was so contaminated that it was necessary for the Police and Civil Defense Personnel to evacuate people in these areas.

1ST ALARM

ENGINE 1
Engine 1 set up a deluge set on the West Side. E-1 hooked up to the hydrant at 16th and the railroad tracks and layed one line to the deluge set and two lines to the ladder pipe on L-3. For the duration of the fire, E-1 pumped a total of five lines - one to a deluge set, two to L-3 ladder pipe, and the two lines to L-1, which were layed by E-2.

ENGINE 2
Engine 2 layed two lines from the ladder pipe on L-1 to E-1. E-2 then layed two lines from the fire to Engine 4, which was located at 17th and Euclid. E-2 was not utilized for pumping and the crew was assigned to firefighting for the duration of the fire.

ENGINE 4
E-4 made a two line reverse lay and hooked up to the hydrant at Euclid and 17th. The crew was assigned to protect exposure on the East Side of the building. For the duration of the fire E-4 pumped a total of five lines - one line to ladder pipe on L-1, one line being used as a hand line, and three lines to a deluge set. Two of the lines to the deluge set were layed by E-10.

LADDER 1
Ladder 1 was spotted on Euclid Avenue at the Southeast corner of the fire area and put their ladder pipe in operation. Ladder 1 also set up their deluge set at the Southeast corner of the fire area. The deluge set was used to cool and protect a railroad boxcar and chemical storage tank located on the Southwest corner of the fire area.

2ND ALARM

ENGINE 3
Engine 3 made a two line reverse lay and hooked up to the hydrant at Euclid and 16th Street. E-3 pumped two lines - one to the fire and the other was utilized for exposures. The crew of E-3 operated these hand lines.

ENGINE 10
Engine 10 layed two lines from E-4 to the deluge set located at the Southeast corner of the fire building. E-10 was not utilized for pump operations. The crew assisted with firefighting operations for the duration of the fire.

LADDER 3
Ladder 3 set up their ladder pipe on the Southwest corner of the fire building. The ladder pipe was in operation for the duration of the fire.

RESCUE 2
Rescue 2 administered oxygen and other first-aid to several firefighters and some Civil Defense Personnel.

RESCUE 3
Rescue 3 stood by at the scene and administered oxygen to several firefighters.

(Note: Police Lt. Fillipilli, who was overcome at the scene was treated by R-1, which was dispatched on a separate alarm for this incident).

Copper State Chemical Fire, July 2, 1970, MR#0038

TFD—

COPPER STATE CHEMICAL CO. FIRE
July 2, 1970

3RD ALARM

ENGINE 5

Engine 5 layed two lines to a deluge set located on the West side of the building. They then layed one line to the ladder pipe on L-3. Engine 5 hooked up to the hydrant at South 2nd Avenue and 16th Street. For the duration of the fire, E-5 pumped a total of five lines - two lines to one deluge set, two lines to another deluge set and one line to the ladder pipe on L-3. Two of the lines to E-6's deluge set were layed by E-6. The crew of E-5 assisted in firefighting operations.

ENGINE 6

Engine 6 made a two line reverse lay to E-5 which was pumping at South 2nd Avenue and East 16th Street. Engine 6 layed an additional line into L-3's ladder pipe. E-6 hooked up to the hydrant at East 17th and the railroad tracks. E-6 pumped into two 3" lines which were layed by Hose 1 from E-6 to the deluge set, which was set up by E-6 on the Southwest corner of the fire. One of E-5's lines was disconnected from this deluge set at this time and used as a hand line. E-6 pumped for the duration into the two 3" lines to the deluge set. The crew assisted in firefighting.

ENGINE 11

Engine 11 made a two line reverse lay from the East side of the building to a hydrant on East 16th Street, approximately 600' East of the fire. These lines were periodically used as hand lines or Master Stream Lines during the progress of the fire. E-11 pumped these two lines for the duration of the fire and the crew assisted in fighting the fire.

TANKER 12

Tanker 12 was dispatched to patrol the area down-wind from the fire for flying brands or spot fires.

HOSE 1

Hose 1 layed two lines of 3" hose from E-6 to a deluge set located on the Southwest corner.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Tom Price, Sanitation Superintendent, reported to the Command Post after it became apparent that a contaminated water run-off problem was rapidly developing. In discussing the problem with the Fire Commander and other Chief Officers, it was decided that most of the water was flowing in a West direction toward the Santa Cruz River. Mr. Price had heavy equipment construct some dams in the river bed to confine its flow.

The Streets Department was notified and barricades were placed wherever necessary on various streets throughout the area. Civil Defense Personnel were dispersed along various intersections to warn motorists and people to keep out of the contaminated water.

Fire Commander, Chief Sprung, requested that Dr. C.C. Roan, Scientist, Director of Community Studies; Pesticide Project; Department of Entomology, and Dr. Donald Morgan, Medical Director Community Studies, Pesticide Project be notified. In addition, he requested that Dr. Chin, Professor of Pharmacology also be notified. These professional people from the University of Arizona were needed for technical advice on chemical and medical problems at the scene of the emergency.

These doctors were very helpful in providing an accurate analysis of the contaminated water throughout the entire emergency. They also took blood samples from all of the firefighters receiving medical attention. Dr. Roan has stated that he will submit a report to the Fire Department on completing the analysis of water runoff and blood samples taken.

The Command Physician was alerted and he coordinated the operations at Tucson Medical Center and St. Josephs Hospital, which were set up for treating the fire casualties. Kords Ambulance, A & A Ambulance and some fire vehicles were utilized for transporting victims to the hospital for treatment.

Copper State Chemical Fire, July 2, 1970, MR#0038

TFD—

The fire was brought under control in approximately an hour; however, some fire companies remained over night at the scene for fire watch and overhaul operations. Ladder 1 was the last company to clear the scene on July 3, 1970 at 1230 Hours. Some hydrants in the path of the run-off were flowed during the night and during the day of July 3, 1970 to dilute and wash all the contaminated water into the river beds, where it was contained by the dams built by the Sanitation Division. As a precautionary measure, the Water Department ceased pumping water from the wells located in the run-off area.

Captain Franklin, Fire Department Public Education Officer, reported to the Command Post at the scene at 1616 Hours. He took charge of coordinating the dissemination of information from the scene to the news media and continued to up-date them until the emergency was over. Requests for information were received by phone from Phoenix, Los Angeles, New York - as well as numerous local calls.

The Fire Prevention Division, under the direction of Assistant Chief Slagel, is conducting an investigation to determine the cause of the fire.

FIRE DEFENSES FOR THE REMAINING PORTION OF THE CITY DURING THE EMERGENCY

Chief Sprung called for a "Full Alert" (all off-duty men to report to duty). A total of 83 off-duty firefighters, 11 Chief Officers, the Chief's Administrative Assistant, the Public Education Officer, two Technical Service Personnel, four Training Personnel, two Maintenance Section Personnel, and six Fire Prevention Personnel responded to the alert. Most of these men reported to base stations. 89 were sent to the scene from the base stations to bolster company strength or to relieve injured or fatigued personnel. The remainder of those reporting were assigned to man reserve apparatus, bolster company strength, or were given other specific assignments.

In addition, mutual aid was requested from three other Fire Departments. The military Fire Department from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base sent one 530 gallon Class "B" pumper, manned by a crew of three men. They stood by at Station #9 from 1725 Hours until 2005 Hours. The South Tucson Fire Department had two pumpers, a 750 G.P.M. and a 1,000 G.P.M. pumper, which were manned by a total of nine men at their station in South Tucson, ready to respond to calls in the Southern portion of the City of Tucson. They stood by from 1730 Hours until 2221 Hours. Hughes Aircraft Fire Department sent a 1,000 G.P.M. pumper with a three man crew to Fire Station #14. They stood by from 1720 Hours until 2030 Hours.

The Civil Defense Rescue organization dispatched twenty-five men and nine mobile units to the scene where they worked under the direction of Chief Elias in assisting with keeping people out of the contaminated water or entering the toxic area.

ASSIGNMENT OF OFF-DUTY AND EIGHT HOUR CHIEF OFFICERS

Chief Rice	Initially assigned as 521 responding out of Station #1. At approximately 2110 Hours relieve Chief Sprung at the Fire Scene. At approximately 2330 Hours relieved to go home.
Chief Slagel	Initially reported to Station #1 and assisted in getting off-duty men called. Assisted with logistics -- air bottles, etc. Help transport men to and from hospital.
Chief Bayless	Reported to Station #1. Assisted in operations at Station #1.
Chief Dirks	Initially reported to the scene. Reported later to Station #1 to oversee operations.
Chief Hansen	Initially reported to Station #1 and assigned as District #1 Chief. When Engine 7 reported in accident, was dispatched to investigate accident. After investigating accident, reported to communications center to oversee their operations.

Copper State Chemical Fire, July 2, 1970, MR#0038

TFD—

COPPER STATE CHEMICAL CO. FIRE
July 2, 1970

Chief DuPont	Reported to Station #1 and was assigned as District #1 Chief when Chief Hansen was dispatched to investigate accident.
Chief Rojeski	Reported to Station #9 and assigned as District #2 Chief.
Chief Elias	Reported to Station #1 and assisted with logistics. When Civil Defense Personnel were called to assist, Chief Elias was assigned to coordinate Civil Defense activities. He worked with Phil Meade at the scene. Chief Elias assigned to D-2 when Chief Lovio was sent to the hospital. He remained on-duty for the rest of the shift.
Chief Russell	Reported to Station #1 and assisted with logistics. Assigned to D-2 for the rest of the shift when Chief Garry was sent to the hospital.
Chief Amaro	Reported to the scene and took charge of a sector.
Chief Montoya	Reported to the scene and took charge of a sector.
Chief Dearing	Reported to Station #1 and took charge of organizing the defenses of the remaining portion of city, logistics, and relief at the scene. At approximately 2350 Hours, Chief Dearing relieved Chief Rice at the scene. Stayed at the scene until approximately 0300 Hours on July 3, 1970, then returned to Station #1 for the remainder of the shift. Rotated companies throughout the night to the scene.

ASSIGNED TO STATIONS DURING THE EMERGENCY WERE AS FOLLOWS:

Station #1	E-9, L-2, R-1. T-1 and H-1 were in service for a short time with off-duty company as an Engine Company until H-1 was called to the scene.
Station #3	E-7 filled in at Station #3 after being checked out after their accident.
Station #4	Vacant.
Station #5	Reserve Engine 5 in service with an off-duty crew.
Station #6	Vacant
Station #7	Vacant
Station #8	E-8 and Rescue 5 with regular on-duty crew.
Station #9	L-4, Tanker 12 put into service as a Reserve E-9 with off-duty crew, and Davis-Monthan Company.
Station #10	E-14 and Reserve #2506 were put into service with off-duty crew for a short period until it was determined the reserve rig was not operational.
Station #11	Vacant
Station #12	E-12 with regular on-duty crew.
Station #14	Hughes Aircraft Fire Company - Captain Jones sent to supervise their operations.
	South Tucson activated Company in their Station. Captain Gabusi was sent to supervise their operations.

Copper State Chemical Fire, July 2, 1970, MR#0038

TFD—

COPPER STATE CHEMICAL CO. FIRE
July 2, 1970

TOTAL GALLONS OF WATER

E-1	850,000 gallons
E-4	560,000 gallons
E-3	150,000 gallons
E-5	135,000 gallons
E-11	140,000 gallons
E-6	40,000 gallons
	1,875,000 Total gallons pumped
	500,000 gallons water flowed from hydrants to flush streets
	2,375,000 gallons - Total water

TOTAL 1½" HOSE IN FEET

E-2	200 feet (Total of 1½" Hose)

TOTAL 2½" HOSE IN FEET

E-1	1,250 feet
E-2	1,750 feet
E-4	1,000 feet
E-3	650 feet
E-10	1,100 feet
E-5	1,650 feet
E-11	1,650 feet
E-6	1,700 feet
	10,750 feet Total of 2½" Hose

TOTAL OF 3" HOSE IN FEET

L-1	100 feet
L-3	100 feet
H-1	600 feet
	800 feet Total of 3" Hose

AERIAL LADDERS

L-1	100 feet aerial	65 feet used for ladder pipe
L-3	85 feet aerial	65 feet used for ladder pipe
Totals	185 Feet	130 Feet

FEET OF HAND LADDERS

E-1	24 feet extension (Total of 24 Feet)

TOOLS USED:

E-1	3 air paks	1 deluge set		
E-2	3 air paks			
E-4	2 air paks	1 bolt cutter	1 hose clamp	2 hand lights
E-3	2 air paks			
E-5	2 air paks			
E-6	2 air paks	1 deluge set		
E-10	2 air paks			
E-11	2 air paks			
L-1	6 air paks	1 ladder pipe	1 salvage cover	1 deluge set
L-3	6 air paks	1 ladder pipe		
R-2		1 resuscitator		

Copper State Chemical Fire, July 2, 1970, MR#0038

TFD—

PERSONNEL INJURED AT COPPER STATE CHEMICAL CO. FIRE ON JULY 2, 1970

1.	Becker	Dr. Office	No time	Cut on thigh
2.	K.F. Dirks	Dr. Office	No time	S.I.
3.	Wencie Higuera	Dr. Office	No time	S.I. & Skin Irritation
4.	Charles Highhouse	Tuc.Cl.next day	1 day AC	S.I. & E.I.
5.	Clarence Jacome	Dr. Office	4 day AC	Nail in foot (happened on 5th)
6.	Alfred Montoya	Dr. Office	No time	S.I.
7.	Robert Oppel	Dr. Office	No time	S.I.
8.	Raul Romero	Dr. Office	No time	S.I.
9.	R. Griesmer	No Doctor	No time	Irritation on arm (just filed report
10.	Ernest Armenta	St.Josephs	1 day AC	S.I. & E.I.
11.	Edmund Campillo	St.Josephs	4 day AC	S.I. & E.I.
12.	Glenn Carlton	St.Josephs	1 day AC	S.I. & E.I.
13.	William Celaya	St.Josephs	1 day AC	S.I. & E.I.
14.	A.Y. Cordova	St.Josephs	1 day AC	S.I. & E.I.
15.	Jimmy R.Davis	St.Josephs	1 day AC	S.I.& Body Exposed to contaminated m
16.	John Engelkes	St.Josephs	1 day AC	S.I. & E.I.
17.	Marlow Brickson	St.Josephs	1 day AC	S.I.
18.	P. Fimbres	St.Josephs	1 day AC	S.I. & E.I.
19.	Aug. Gallego	St.Josephs	1 day AC	S.I. & E.I. & T.I.
20.	Burnett Gibbens	St.Josephs	1 day AC	S.I.
21.	Andy Herreras	St.Josephs	6 day AC	S.I. & E.I.
22.	William Kaveloh	St.Josephs	1 day AC	S.I. & E.I.
23.	Frank Ketchem	St.Josephs	1 day AC	S.I. & E.I.
24.	Ed V. Lovio	St.Josephs	1 day AC	S.I.
25.	Chas. McDonald	St.Josephs	8 day AC	Back Injury
26.	Robert Polanco	St.Josephs	No time	S.I.
27.	C.L. Phillips,Jr.	St.Josephs	1 day AC	S.I. & E.I.
28.	Eugene Velasco	St.Josephs	1 day AC	S.I. & E.I. & T.I.
29.	G.E. Adams	T.M.C.	1 day AC	S.I. & E.I.
30.	Rudy Arriaga	T.M.C.	1 day AC	S.I. & Ant Bites
31.	F. Bejarano	T.M.C.	1 day AC	S.I.
32.	Norman Clark	T.M.C.	1 day AC	S.I. & E.I.
33.	David Davis	T.M.C.	1 day AC	S.I. & E.I.
34.	John DeKeizer	T.M.C.	No time	S.I. & E.I.
35.	Merle Diggins	T.M.C.	1 day AC	S.I. & E.I.
36.	Matt. Garry	T.M.C.	6 day AC	S.I.
37.	James Grasham	T.M.C.	1 day AC	S.I. & E.I.
38.	Gary Kellar	T.M.C.	1 day AC	S.I. & T.I.
39.	John Konigsfeld	T.M.C.	1 day AC	S.I. & E.I.
40.	Kenneth Lehr	T.M.C.	1 day AC	S.I.& Body Exp.to contaminated mat.
41.	A.S. Lopez	T.M.C.	1 day AC	S.I.& Body Exp.to contaminated mat.
42.	Alvino Lopez	T.M.C.	1 day AC	S.I. & E.I.
43.	Ronald Kwart	T.M.C.	6 day AC	S.I. & E.I.
44.	Gordon May	T.M.C.	1 day AC	S.I.
45.	Gus Moreno	T.M.C.	1 day AC	S.I. & E.I.
46.	Gail Page	T.M.C.	1 day AC	S.I.
47.	Harry Putney	T.M.C.	5 day AC	S.I.
48.	H.B. Russell	T.M.C.	No time	S.I.
49.	James Russell	T.M.C.	1 day AC	S.I. & E.I.
50.	David Spaulding	T.M.C.	1 day AC	S.I. & E.I.
51.	Fred Sprung	T.M.C.	7 day AC	S.I.& Skin exp.to contaminated mat.
52.	Ronald Stutz	T.M.C.	1 day AC	S.I. & E.I.
53.	Gene Uthe	T.M.C.	No time	S.I. & T.I.
54.	A.M. Valenzuela	T.M.C.	1 day AC	S.I. & E.I.
55.	Jimmie Wilson	T.M.C.	1 day AC	S.I.& Skin exp.to contaminated mat.
56.	R.V. Zuniga	T.M.C.	5 day AC	S.I.

SYMBOLS
S.I. = Smoke Inhalation
E.I. = Eye Irritation
T.I. = Throat Irritation

28 to T.M.C.
19 to St.Josephs
8 to Dr. Offices
1 No Doctor

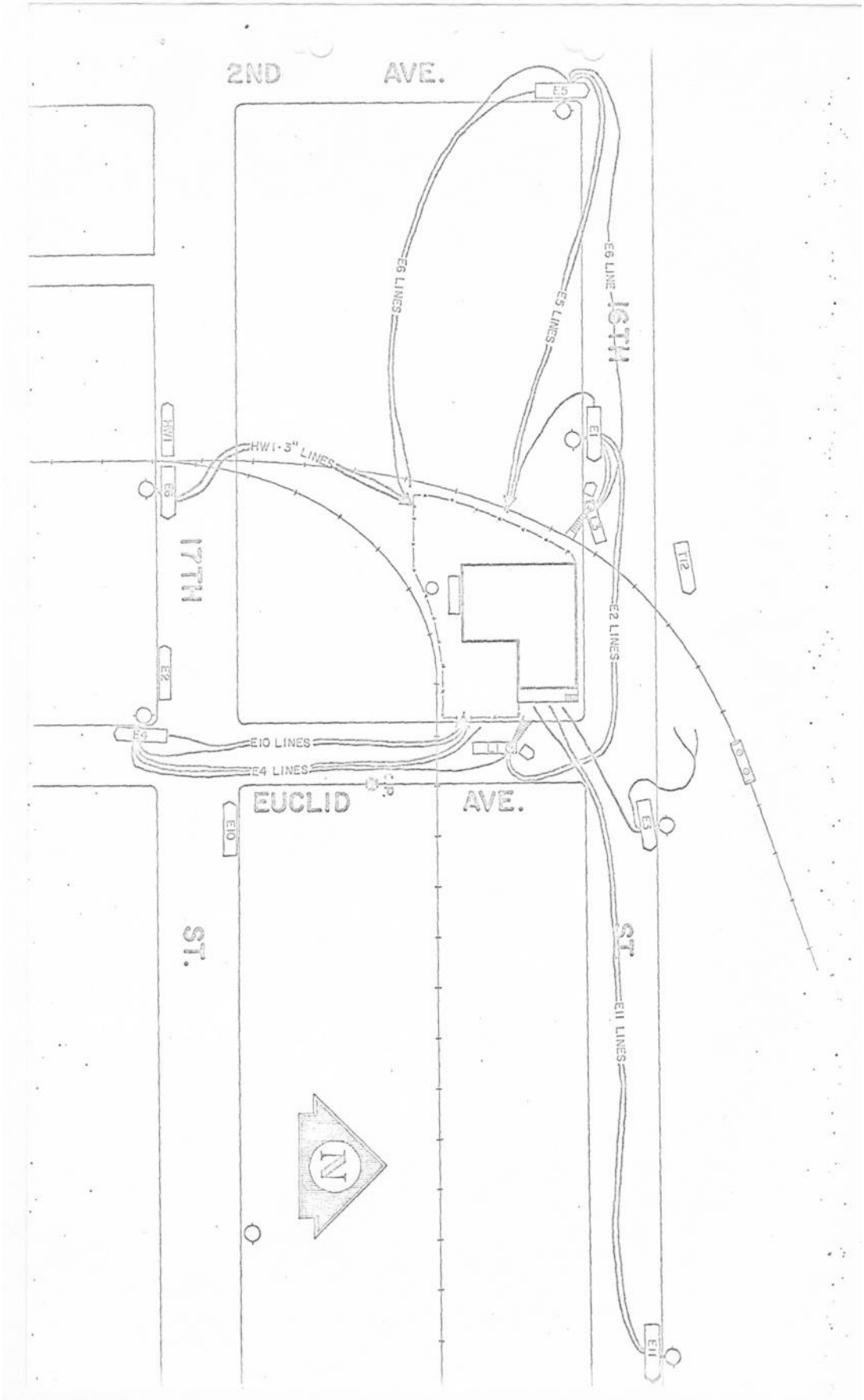
Total of 87 days AC

52 - Smoke Inhalation
28 - Eye Irritation
4 - Throat Irritation
2 - Skin Irritation
5 - Skin exposed to contaminated material
1 - Nail in foot
1 - Back Injury
1 - Cut on Thigh
1 - With Ant Bites

The large number of smoke inhalations and eye irritations were primarily due to an insufficient number of air paks. Most companies with 4 man crews have 2 air paks, and Cos. with 5 man crews have 3 air paks. After the fire was under control some men removed their air pak thinking they were in a clear atmosphere and inhaled smoke or fumes due to shifting winds. Many of the firefighters received medical attention as a precautionary measure due to the type of smoke or fumes being emitted from the fire.

Copper State Chemical Fire, July 2, 1970, MR#0038

TFD—



Copper State Chemical Fire, July 2, 1970, MR#0038

TFD—

COPPER STATE CHEMICAL FIRE
July 2, 1970

This fire was reported at approximately 1608 hours on July 2, 1970.

Inspector Martin reported to the scene immediately to gather initial information available.

Chief Slagel and Captain Gilmore reported to the scene at approximately 1800 hours. Due to the nature and extent of the fire, investigation of the physicial sight was impossible at this time.

Subsequently, investigation was made by interviewing witnesses, employees, the owners of the Copper State Chemical Co., doctors of chemistry from the University of Arizona, and representatives from several chemical and pesticide companies.

An inspection of the physical sight was made as soon as the hazardous material was removed.

As a result of all information gathered the following hypothesises are offered.

#1
That certain chemicals (two or more non-compatable) were inadvertantly allowed to combine, thereby causeing an exothermic reaction with subsequent ignition.

#2
That an unidentified material located in close proximity to an operating gas fired water heater, as a result of some(unidentified) (unreported) act, was caused to spill or seperate from its container, thereby allowing a flammable liquid and/or vapor to spread to a source of ignition provided by the nearby water heater.

The above is offered as possibilities only, A definite conclusion on the exact cause cannot be made on the presently available information.

If and when additional information is available and/or any conclusions are made, final supplements will be submitted.

R. B. Slagel

R. B. Slagel, Chief
Fire Prevention Division

L D Gilmore

Copper State Chemical Fire, July 2, 1970, MR#0038

TFD—

AVOID VERBAL MESSAGES

CITY OF TUCSON

TO Chief L.F. Peterson FROM Chief R.B. Slagel

SUBJECT COPPER STATE CHEMICAL COMPANY WAREHOUSE DATE September 1, 1970

Based on the information available to us, the most probable cause of the Copper State Chemical Company fire on July 2, 1970 was flammable vapors coming in contact with the open flame of a water heater.

Tests conducted by Dr. Roan, some of which we observed, eliminates the involvement of Nu-Lawn Weed Killer as being the material involved in the fire origin. There were various insecticides stored within ten feet of the water heater. Some of these have a known flash point as low as 82° F. Since the warehouse had no auxiliary cooling and the temperature should have been between 90 - 100° F., (official high temperature for the day was 99°), we believe one of these insecticides developed a leak and the vapors were ignited by the open flame of the water heater. The Nu-Lawn Weed Killer, as well as most of the material in the warehouse became fuel, easily ignited by the open flame and increased temperatures.

FUTURE LOCATION

I recommend that the Copper State Chemical Company be permitted to rebuild their warehouse at South Euclid and East 16th Street, Tucson, Arizona.

From the department view-point, there is no reason to deny permission to rebuild on the same site; however, present zoning and building code requirements do not permit the construction of a chemical warehouse handling the variety of materials which Copper State Chemical Company is accustomed to. This leaves them a choice of the following:

Relocate to a proper zone, ie, I-2. (Presently there is only one I-2 zone within the City. This is occupied by a gravel company).

Limit operations to comply with present zoning. (This would not permit them to satisfy their customers' needs).

Change the zoning from I-1 to I-2.

Move out into the County.

Relocate to Eloy or Casa Grande.

From a safety view-point, Copper State Chemical Company Warehouse was geographically well located.

Very little or no residential occupancy in the immediate area. (See attached map).

Copper State Chemical Fire, July 2, 1970, MR#0038

TFD—

Close proximity and accessibility of Fire Suppression Companies.

Adequate water supply to handle a fire of this magnitude, as was demonstrated on July 2, 1970.

No hospitals, nursing homes, homes for the aged, schools, etc in the immediate neighborhood.

No high rise buildings of any type for a considerable distance in all directions.

If they are not permitted to rebuild at the present location, they would be forced to move outside of the City, where there are no controls, no Fire Department, and inadequate water supply should we become involved. Depending on wind direction, the smoke could endanger many citizens in Tucson, for a much longer period of time.

If they moved to Eloy or Casa Grande, they would be operating on a semi-mobile basis, ie, large loads of mixed chemicals on the same vehicles traveling Tucson streets.

I believe any of the available alternatives to allowing Copper State Chemical Company to rebuild at their present location would compound our problems instead of making Tucson a safer place in which to live.

Respectfully,

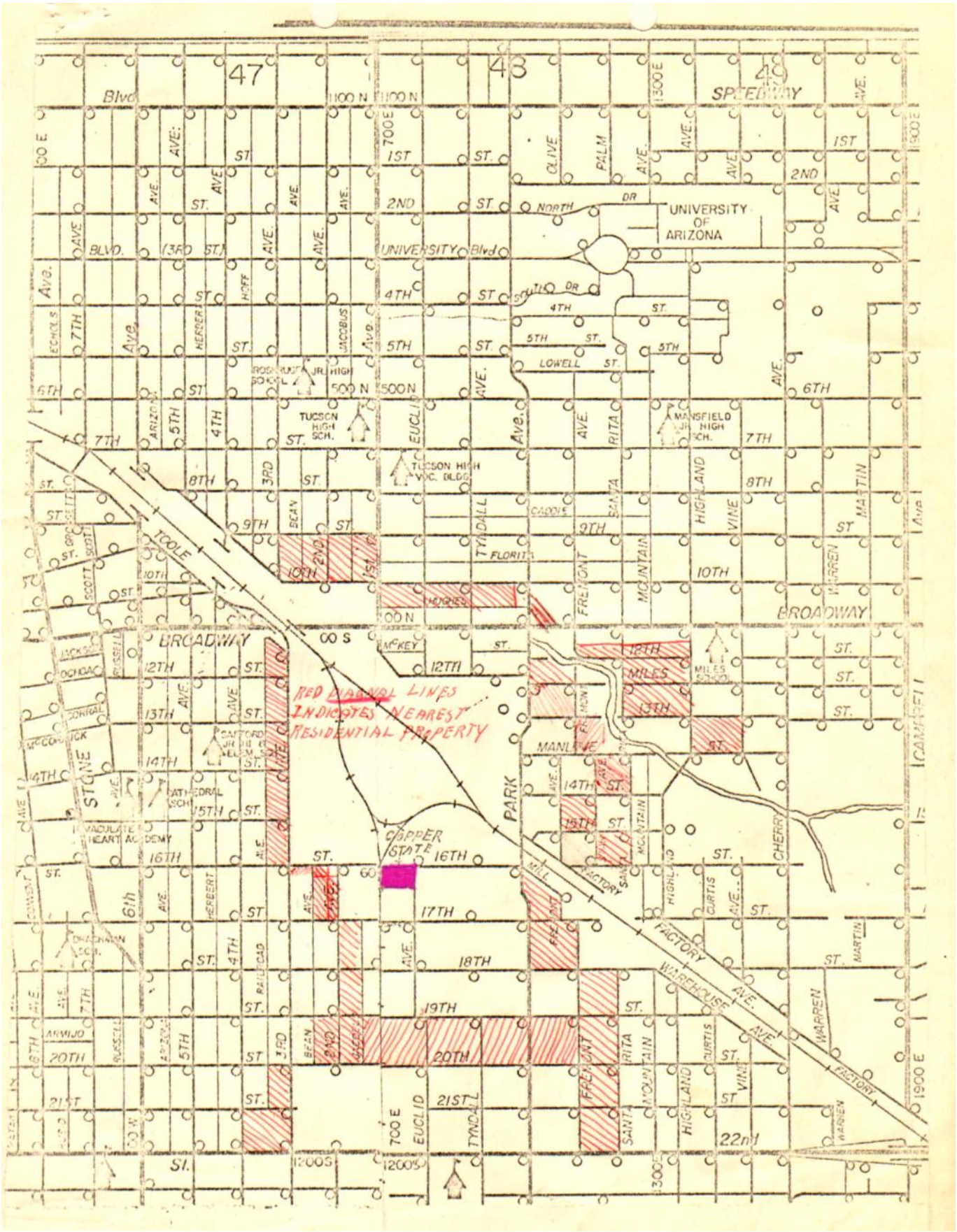
RB Slagel

RBS/smw

CC to Deputy Chief K.F. Dirks

Copper State Chemical Fire, July 2, 1970, MR#0038

TFD—



Copper State Chemical Fire, July 2, 1970, MR#0038

TFD—

Possible Chemical Causes of Fire Occurring 2 July 70
at Copper State Chemical Co. Tucson, Arizona

C. C. Roan

A meeting on the above subject was held at the University of Arizona 2 p.m. 13 July 70. Attendance is indicated by the accompanying list. The following represent the writer's opinion of essential factors and circumstances as obtained at this meeting and in subsequent on site interviews and unsophisticated tests and is preliminary pending a final report. Employees of Copper State Chemical Company on the premises at the time of the fire apparently locate the area in which the fire started or first became apparent as being a pallet[1] containing three cases of Nu-Lawn Weeder, a product of AMCHEM Products, Inc. of Ambler, Pennsylvania.

A shipment of the above product was received just before the close of business on 1 July 70 and placed in the warehouse on the north side of the east/west aisle. The general location can be described as the southeast area of the northeast quadrant of the warehouse. On 2 July 70 between 9 and 10 a.m. an employee discovered one bottle leaking - investigation indicated the bottom had separated. The spill was absorbed with Fuller's earth. At 3:30-3:40 p.m. two more bottles broke.[2] Mr. Alden Skoug felt the bottles and did not find them to be above warehouse temperature.[3] This spill was also absorbed with Fuller's earth and employees instructed to move the pallet and cases to the outside reefer unit.[4] The fork lift was in use so relocation was delayed.[5]

Between 3:40 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. (?), probably about 3:55 p.m., an employee on the south loading dock, apparently near the south door heard bottles popping and saw an orange colored ball of flame appear above the cases of Nu-Lawn Weeder.[6] Flames apparently spread all the way to the ceiling. At about 4:00 p.m. Mr. Alden Skoug initiated a fire call.

At 4:09 p.m. Chief Sprung, TFD, arrived on the scene. Flames were evident from the windows on the north side of the warehouse. The roof on the northwest area had already started burning but had not ventilated. As Chief Sprung turned south on Euclid the window on the east side of the building blew out.

Occupants of the office section of the building felt an explosion before evacuation was completed. Other employees

TFD—

located outside the warehouse do not appear to associate an explosion within 90 seconds of their first knowledge of the fire.

Although the above description is incomplete the total circumstances suggest that a material (combination of chemicals) spontaneously ignited and, subsequent to the ignition, formed a volume of explosive gas (or vapor mixture) or encountered a pre-existing volume of such gas or gasses.

Mr. Wm. Skoug sketched in the storage location of the materials in the warehouse. The other chemicals of immediate interest because of fire potential are Ammonium Nitrate, Sodium Nitrate, Sodium Chlorate, and HTH. The HTH was stored in waterproof fiber drums. Neither the nitrates nor the HTH were stored in the immediate vicinity of the Nu-Lawn Weeder. A gas fired hot water heater was located in the northeast area of the warehouse and could be regarded as a potential source of ignition. Also stored in the northeast area of the northeast quadrant of the warehouse were one or more formulations of Diazinon. Information from Geigy indicate a flash point of 105°F for the 4E and 4S formulations and 82°F for the AG500 formulation.

If we consider the Nu-Lawn Weeder as a probable cause of the fire the following properties and conditions must be evident:

1. A chemical or combination of chemicals that reacted within the primary container, or the spilled material with undetermined components of the ambient air in the warehouse or of the fiber packing case, exothermically with a rate of reaction producing sufficient energy to bring the basic solvent to its flash point of 235°F or of the formulation, identified as lot number A36069, to its flash point of 220°F. A source of ignition would be required in these circumstances. This temperature rise would have occurred in a period of approximately 10 minutes.

2. A second situation would have required the conditions above but a reaction rate that proceeded with explosive violence without an external ignition source.

Analysis of situations 1 and 2 above:

a. The reactions postulated as occurring within the primary container are most unlikely and would require an increasing reaction rate initiated on or about 1 July 70 while enroute.

TFD—

b. Further evidence against this situation is the incident at White Chemical Company with one case from the same manufacturing lot in which two bottles ruptured without subsequent fire and/or explosion. Experiments of AMCHEM on retained samples from the same lot produced results incompatible with the situation observed in Tucson. Preliminary and crude tests by the writer on the material remaining from the White Chemical shipment do not indicate the formation of unstable chemicals during shipment. Nu-Lawn Weeder combined with HTH or with inert florisil would not ignite spontaneously in unsophisticated tests conducted 15 July 70. Further independant tests are scheduled by AMCHEM and the writer.

The remaining option is the reaction of the spilled material with some component of the environment that must be unique to the Copper State Warehouse or at least not available at the White Chemical plant in Phoenix. The conditions and/or chemicals available in the Copper State Chemical Company appear to be:

Fuller's Earth
HTH
Ammonium Nitrate
Sodium Nitrate
Chlorine (low concentrations from bleach plant)
Sodium Chlorate

Descriptions of the use of Fuller's earth as a sorbant material for the liquid from the ruptured bottles and the storage locations mitigate against the Nu-Lawn Weeder having combined with these. The same situation makes it unlikely that the Nu-Lawn Weeder had access to any other liquid or solid - other than the Fuller's earth.

The possibility of a violent reaction of the Nu-Lawn Weeder and the Fuller's earth per se is most unlikely, but will be investigated.

The reaction of the combination of Nu-Lawn Weeder and Fuller's earth with some gas or vapor in the ambient air is also most unlikely and would represent a unique chemical discovery.

My tentative conclusion, is that Nu-Lawn Weeder as formulated and received in Tucson did not react exothermically with explosive violence. On the basis of probable chemical reactions it is unlikely that this or any pesticides other than Sodium Chlorate stored by Copper State Chemical would decompose or react with

other available chemicals in a vigorous manner that would be unique to this class of pesticidal chemicals. Based on presently available information a source of heat energy external to the Nu-Lawn Weeder - or the other pesticides known to be available at Copper State Chemicals - would be required to initiate the fire and subsequent explosions.

Copper State Chemical Fire, July 2, 1970, MR#0038

TFD—

NAME	COMPANY	MAILING ADDRESS
V. F. Van Cleve	Wilbur Ellis	P.O. Box 695, Glendale
Bob Rakich	Monsanto Company	2437 E. Marmora, Phoenix
Bill (Wm.) Skoug	Copper State Chemical	P.O. Box 1110, Tucson
Alden E. Skoug	Copper State Chemical	P.O. Box 1110, Tucson
R. Sprung	Tucson Fire Department	142 S. 6th Ave., Tucson
Walter D. Bolton	Lesher & Scruggs	3773 E. Broadway, Tucson
Edward V. Lovio	Tucson Fire Department	1220 W. Estrada, Tucson
Matthew F. Garry	Tucson Fire Department	1201 W. Roger Rd., Tucson
Ernest G. Szoke	AMCHEM Products, Inc.	Ambler, Pennsylvania
J. Russell Bishop	AMCHEM Products, Inc.	Ambler, Pennsylvania
Robert S. Tullar	Chandler, Tullar, Udall & Richmond	1110 Transamerica Bldg., Tucson
Kenneth C. Weihl	Ohio Farmers Insurance	630 N. Craycroft, Tucson
Robert I. Federoff	Travelers Insurance Company	2332 E. Broadway, Tucson
D. H. Creekmore	Crawford & Company	2030 E. Broadway, Tucson
J. L. Dewlen	AMCHEM Products, Inc.	P.O.Box 2698, Niles Dist., Fremont, California
Lee Van Deren	AMCHEM Products, Inc.	P.O. Box 877, Parpinteria, Calif. 93013
R. B. Slagel	Fire Prevention	P.O. Box 5547, City Hall, Tucson
L. D. Gilmore	Fire Prevention	P.O. Box 5547, City Hall, Tucson
C. C. Roan	Arizona Community Pesticide	Dept. of Entomology, U of A, Tucson
D. P. Morgan	Arizona Community Pesticide	Dept. of Entomology, U of A, Tucson

Copper State Chemical Fire, July 2, 1970, MR#0038

TFD—

Copper State Chemical Fire, July 2, 1970, MR#0038

TFD—

Copper State Chemical Fire, July 2, 1970, MR#0038

TFD—

Copper State Chemical Fire, July 2, 1970, MR#0038

TFD—

Copper State Chemical Fire, July 2, 1970, MR#0038

TFD—

Copper State Chemical Fire, July 2, 1970, MR#0038

July 16, 2015, http://tucson.com/news/blogs/photo_blog/throwback-thursday-the-copper-state-chemical-fire-in/article_1d87667a-2b22-11e5-b640-c707488faf88.html July 2, 1970

Throwback Thursday: The Copper State Chemical fire in 1970

A fresh shipment of Nu-Lawn Weeder exploded into flames at the Copper State Chemical Co. at 748 E. 16th St., on July 2, 1970, leading to a three-alarm fire that sent 70 people to the hospital.

Explosions engulfed the Copper State Chemical Co. at 748 E. 16th St., Tucson, in fire on July 2, 1970. The assistant fire chief arrived on scene and immediately ordered a second alarm. Two large explosions scattered debris and started fires at Home Gas Co., O'Malley's Lumber Co., and Tucson Warehouse Co. (now Barrio Brewing) adjacent to Copper State.

Soon after, a third alarm was dispatched and a "full alert" was issued, recalling all off-duty firefighters to the scene. One third-alarm unit, Engine 7, collided with a car driven by a teenager, but was able to make it to the scene.

Fire commanders ordered the evacuation of people and homes in the area due to the toxic cloud of smoke, which included pesticides and ammonium nitrate. Injured firefighters totalled 56, mostly for smoke inhalation and eye and skin irritation.

Two of 19 firefighters injured – most from inhalation – during a fire at the Copper State Chemical Co, 748 E. 16th St., Tucson, on July 2, 1970. Tucson Citizen

Buy Now

Though the building was not terribly large, the contents within created a massive fire that required more than 2 million gallons of water pumped through 11,750 feet of fire hose. Nearly all of the department's staff and equipment responded to the fire. Fire trucks from Hughes Aircraft, Davis-Monthan AFB and S. Tucson Fire staffed empty stations while TFD units fought the fi

The toxic stew created with the millions of gallons of water was routed into a temporary dam in the Santa Cruz River. Nearby drinking water wells were shut down until water could be tested for contaminants.

Exact cause of the fire is not known, but spontaneous combustion was suspected. Employees saw containers in a shipment of Nu-Lawn Weeder exploding in flames, which set off a serious of explosions in other chemicals.

Copper State Chemical Fire, July 2, 1970, MR#0038

July 16, 2015, http://tucson.com/news/blogs/photo_blog/throwback-thursday-the-copper-state-chemical-fire-in/article_1d87667a-2b22-11e5-b640-c707488faf88.html July 2, 1970

Throwback Thursday: The Copper State Chemical fire in 1970

Three ladder trucks were used on a fire at the Copper State Chemical Co, 748 E. 16th St., Tucson, on July 2, 1970. Tucson Citizen

Copper State Chemical Fire, July 2, 1970, MR#0038

July 16, 2015, http://tucson.com/news/blogs/photo_blog/throwback-thursday-the-copper-state-chemical-fire-in/article_1d87667a-2b22-11e5-b640-c707488faf88.html July 2, 1970

Throwback Thursday: The Copper State Chemical fire in 1970

Tweet 0 g+1 0 Email

Copper State Chemical fire

Tucson Citizen

Firefighters drag hose lines over the RR tracks during a fire at the Copper State Chemical Co, 748 E. 16th St., Tucson, on July 2, 1970. More than 100 firefighters – many off-duty – fought the blaze. Tucson Citizen

Copper State Chemical Fire, July 2, 1970, MR#0038

July 16, 2015, http://tucson.com/news/blogs/photo_blog/throwback-thursday-the-copper-state-chemical-fire-in/article_1d87667a-2b22-11e5-b640-c707488faf88.html July 2, 1970

Throwback Thursday: The Copper State Chemical fire in 1970

« Previous Image ▶ Play Slideshow Photo 2 of 12 Next Image »

Tweet 0 +1 0 Email

Copper State Chemical fire

Tucson Citizen

TFD Engine 1 supplies hose lines and soon, a ladder truck, during a fire at the Copper State Chemical Co, 748 E. 16th St., Tucson, on July 2, 1970. Tucson Citizen

Copper State Chemical Fire, July 2, 1970, MR#0038

July 16, 2015, http://tucson.com/news/blogs/photo_blog/throwback-thursday-the-copper-state-chemical-fire-in/article_1d87667a-2b22-11e5-b640-c707488faf88.html July 2, 1970

Throwback Thursday: The Copper State Chemical fire in 1970

Tweet 0 g+1 0 Email

Copper State Chemical fire

Tucson Citizen

Fire commands assess a fire at the Copper State Chemical Co, 748 E. 16th St., Tucson, on July 2, 1970.
Tucson Citizen

Copper State Chemical Fire, July 2, 1970, MR#0038

July 16, 2015, http://tucson.com/news/blogs/photo_blog/throwback-thursday-the-copper-state-chemical-fire-in/article_1d87667a-2b22-11e5-b640-c707488faf88.html July 2, 1970

Throwback Thursday: The Copper State Chemical fire in 1970

Tweet 0 +1 0 Email

Copper State Chemical fire

Tucson Citizen

More than 2 million gallons of water were used on a fire at the Copper State Chemical Co, 748 E. 16th St., Tucson, on July 2, 1970. Tucson Citizen

Copper State Chemical Fire, July 2, 1970, MR#0038

July 16, 2015, http://tucson.com/news/blogs/photo_blog/throwback-thursday-the-copper-state-chemical-fire-in/article_1d87667a-2b22-11e5-b640-c707488faf88.html July 2, 1970

Throwback Thursday: The Copper State Chemical fire in 1970

Tweet 0 g+1 0 Email

Copper State Chemical fire

Tucson Citizen

Tucson Fire commanders at a fire at the Copper State Chemical Co, 748 E. 16th St., Tucson, on July 2, 1970. Tucson Citizen

Copper State Chemical Fire, July 2, 1970, MR#0038

July 16, 2015, http://tucson.com/news/blogs/photo_blog/throwback-thursday-the-copper-state-chemical-fire-in/article_1d87667a-2b22-11e5-b640-c707488faf88.html July 2, 1970

Throwback Thursday: The Copper State Chemical fire in 1970

Tweet 0 +1 0 Email

Copper State Chemical fire

Tucson Citizen

An injured person taken to an ambulance (70 were sent to hospitals) during a fire at the Copper State Chemical Co, 748 E. 16th St., Tucson, on July 2, 1970. Tucson Citizen

Copper State Chemical Fire, July 2, 1970, MR#0038

July 16, 2015, http://tucson.com/news/blogs/photo_blog/throwback-thursday-the-copper-state-chemical-fire-in/article_1d87667a-2b22-11e5-b640-c707488faf88.html July 2, 1970

Throwback Thursday: The Copper State Chemical fire in 1970

Tweet 0 g+1 0 Email

Copper State Chemical fire

Buy Now

Tucson Citizen

The smoky, charred facade after a fire at the Copper State Chemical Co, 748 E. 16th St., Tucson, on July 2, 1970. Tucson Citizen

Copper State Chemical Fire, July 2, 1970, MR#0038

July 16, 2015, http://tucson.com/news/blogs/photo_blog/throwback-thursday-the-copper-state-chemical-fire-in/article_1d87667a-2b22-11e5-b640-c707488faf88.html July 2, 1970

Throwback Thursday: The Copper State Chemical fire in 1970

Tweet 0 +1 0 Email

Copper State Chemical fire

Buy Now

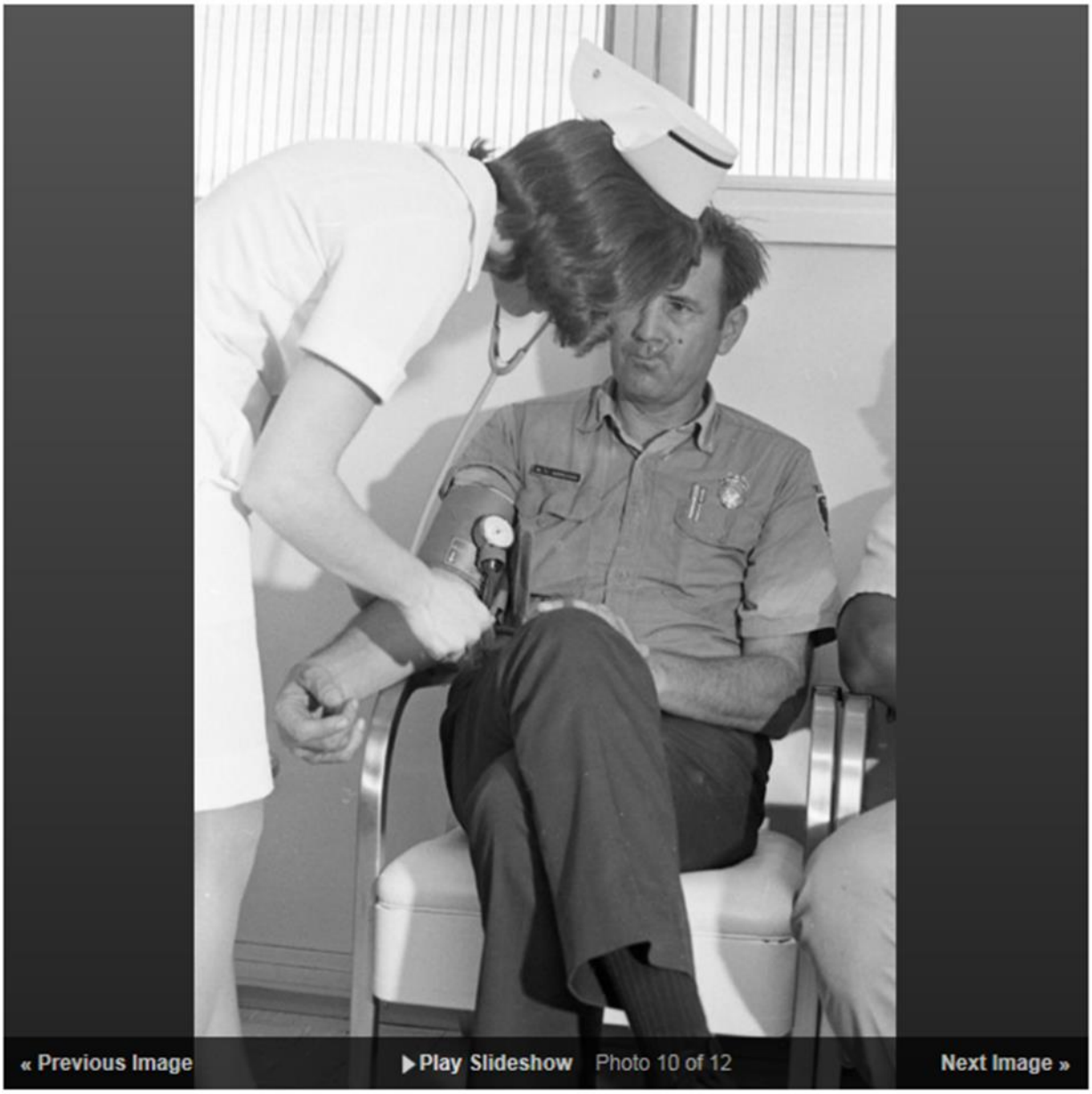
Tucson Citizen

Tucson firefighters stream water on a fire at the Copper State Chemical Co, 748 E. 16th St., Tucson, on July 2, 1970. Tucson Citizen

Copper State Chemical Fire, July 2, 1970, MR#0038

July 16, 2015, http://tucson.com/news/blogs/photo_blog/throwback-thursday-the-copper-state-chemical-fire-in/article_1d87667a-2b22-11e5-b640-c707488faf88.html July 2, 1970

Throwback Thursday: The Copper State Chemical fire in 1970



Tweet 0 +1 0 Email

Copper State Chemical fire

Buy Now

Tucson Citizen

A nurse treats at firefighter at a hospital after a fire at the Copper State Chemical Co, 748 E. 16th St., Tucson, on July 2, 1970. Tucson Citizen

Copper State Chemical Fire, July 2, 1970, MR#0038

July 16, 2015, http://tucson.com/news/blogs/photo_blog/throwback-thursday-the-copper-state-chemical-fire-in/article_1d87667a-2b22-11e5-b640-c707488faf88.html July 2, 1970

Throwback Thursday: The Copper State Chemical fire in 1970

Tweet 0 8+1 0 Email

Copper State Chemical fire

Buy Now

Tucson Citizen

Chemicals mixed with 2 million gallons of water from fire trucks created stew that was channeled into the Santa Cruz River during a fire at the Copper State Chemical Co, 748 E. 16th St., Tucson, on July 2, 1970. Tucson Citizen

Greater Tucson Fire Foundation

Thanks you for taking an interest in Tucson Fire Department history —

This is one of many sections that contain information, documents, letters, newspaper articles, pictures, etc. They have been collected and arranged in chronological order or by a subject. These items were collected, organized and entered into a computerized database by Dave Ridings Assistant Chief Tucson Fire Department, Al Ring friend of the department, Greater Tucson Fire Foundation and with the help of many friends and fellow firefighters.

All graphics have been improved to make the resolution as good as possible, but the reader should remember that many came from copies of old newspaper articles. This also applies to other items such as documents, letters, etc.

Credit to the source of the documents, photos, etc. is provided whenever it was available. We realize that many items are not identified and regret that we weren't able to provide this information. As far as the newspaper articles that are not identified, 99% of them would have to be from one of three possible sources. The *Arizona Daily Star,* The *Tucson Citizen* and the *Tucson Daily Citizen,* for which we want to give a special thanks.

Please use this information as a reference tool only. If the reader uses any of the information for any purpose other than a reference tool, they should get permission from the source.

Should the reader have additional information on the above subject we would appreciate you sharing it with us. Please see the names and contact information on the 1st. TFD Archives page right below this paragraph.

Greater Tucson Fire Foundation