

Deafening Explosions Rock Famed Fireworks Plant in New York

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General Information

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Description

A series of explosions at the famed Grucci Fireworks factory on Long Island causes extensive damage, and is heard and felt for miles.

Keywords

Fireworks, Explosion, Series, Deafening, Factory, Grucci, Force, Concussive, Bombs, Glass, Projectile, Fatalities, Injuries, Homes, Damage, Displays, Inauguration, Reagan, President Ronald Reagan, Winter Olympics, Centennial, Brooklyn Bridge, Christmas, Bellport, New York, Long Island, Tradition, Family Business, Generations, Italy

Citation

MLA

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Transcript

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CONNIE CHUNG (host):

A fireworks factory in Bellport, New York exploded today, killing at least two people. There actually were several explosions during a period of about an hour. Norma Quarles reports.

NORMA QUARLES (reporting):

Witnesses said it was a big red explosion, then multicolored fireworks filled the sky. Shortly before noon, a series of deafening explosions tore through the Grucci fireworks company in Bellport, Long Island, 50 miles east of New York City. The company, well known for its displays, had made the fireworks for the Reagan inauguration, the last Winter Olympics and the Brooklyn Bridge centennial. The entire building was leveled. Six people, including the son of the owner of the factory, were believed to be inside working on Christmas display when the explosions began. At least 20 homes in the residential area surrounding the plant were heavily damaged. The explosion could be felt for miles.

Unidentified Man #1: I heard this big, loud...like bombs going off, you know, and just the glass went flying and the lights come down and there was about three explosions.

QUARLES: At least 23 people were treated for cuts, bruises and fractures. The family owned fireworks company had been in a running battle with local authorities, trying to enlarge the plant. But residents strongly objected, and the expansion was denied. The Grucci family have been in the firework business for five generations, in a business begun in Italy in 1854. Norma Quarles, NBC News, New York.