

February 2, 2012 UPDATE: The man was identified as Keith Bryant, 78, who had been working on a propane tank on the cabin cruiser, a 38-foot boat named Escale. He reportedly suffered back and shrapnel injuries causing open wounds. It was reported in the Sequim Gazette that he is in intensive care at Harborview Hospital in critical condition.

Investigators believe the explosion was caused by a propane tank according to Sgt. Sean Madison Sequim PD.

February 1, 2012: Clallam County Fire District No. 3, the U.S. Coast Guard and Sequim Police this morning were investigating a Tuesday boat explosion at John Wayne Marina that seriously injured one man, who was flown from Olympic Medical Center to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle overnight. The Coast Guard is supervising salvage and oil cleanup operations

SEQUIM, January 31, 2012: A 40-foot boat exploded at a marina on Washington's Olympic Peninsula Tuesday evening, breaking windows, inflicting shrapnel-type damage on other nearby vessels and seriously injuring a 78-year-old man, firefighters said.

The force of the blast sank the boat, briefly trapping the lone occupant in the hull in the water, Clallam County Fire District No. 3 spokesman Patrick Young said.

Clifford and Julie Houser, who were on a nearby boat, were knocked off their feet by the blast.

Their boat sustained substantial damage.

It added that the couple helped the injured man out after finding him covered in debris and in water inside his boat.

Burns, fractures

The man is believed to have lived on the boat, Young said.

Medics said he suffered burns and fractures. He was airlifted to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, a police dispatcher said. He wasn't immediately identified.

Young said he didn't know exactly how many other boats were damaged along the slip at the John Wayne Marina in the town of Sequim.

But he said boats as far away as 75 yards received damage.

The Coast Guard and police are investigating the cause of the explosion.

Spill response crews worked to mop up an undetermined amount of fuel from the shattered boat.

From the Sequim Gazette.