

NOT NOTIFIED

CD Angry Over Fire In Bomarc

McGUIRE AIR FORCE BASE, N.J. (AP) — The New Jersey Civil Defense organization said Wednesday it was "hopping mad" because the Air Force did not notify it immediately of a fire in a nuclear-armed guided missile.

The Bomarc missile caught fire Tuesday at its launching site 12 miles north of this base. No one was injured but the missile, worth between \$1,000,000 and \$1,200,000, was destroyed.

First reports that the atomic warhead had exploded spread some alarm but no panic. They caused state police, civil defense and health authorities to leap into action.

It was learned later that only a small amount of radiation leaked out and did not come from the warhead. It was confined to the launching pen.

Air Force spokesmen Wednesday indicated this radioactivity may have been generated by the burning of thoriated magnesium, one of the metals in the missile.

Cause of the first was not announced, if it was known at all. It was investigated by the Atomic Energy Commission, Defense Department and state health department.