

Gasoline tanker overturns and explodes

by UPI

EVERETT, Mass. -- A tanker truck overturned and exploded early Wednesday in a blue-collar town north of Boston, forcing the evacuation of more than 100 people. At least two multi-family houses in Everett burned, along with about 20 cars, The Boston Globe reported. Firefighters emptied a building housing the elderly. "It looked like a war zone," Everett Fire Chief David Butler said. "They had heavy fire conditions. Two buildings fully involved in fire. ... They had a pretty serious situation." No serious injuries were reported. The truck driver, Chad LaFrance of Dover, N.H., was given tickets for speeding and for failing to have a federal medical certificate with him. He left with a safety officer for his employer, P.S. Marston Associates of North Hampton, N.H. An eyewitness said the truck was going too fast around a traffic circle before the crash. Gas spilling from the tanker burst into flames, creating a river of fire down Main Street. When firefighters arrived, they found manholes popping and flames shooting from houses and cars. Fifteen fire departments responded to the scene.

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