

Web2PDF converted by Web2PDFConvert.com stop it using fire extinguishers but it got too big."

Between 15 and 20 employees were working when the fire broke out, Rodriguez said.

"Fortunately, everyone got out safe," Rodriguez said.

Before exiting, Rodriguez said workers cut the power at the main breaker. Power lines were eventually downed by the fire, but by then Southern California Edison had cut power to the plant and in doing so to some of the surrounding homes.

The pile of plastic bundles was roughly 60 feet by 12 feet by 14 feet, Green said. The metal building collapsed in on itself.

Company owners and senior management declined to comment.

Rodriguez did not know if they would be out of jobs due to the fire.

There was a report of an explosion but that could not be confirmed by fire officials, workers or people who live in the area.

"I heard a lot of popping and banging and so I walked outside to see what was going on," said Earl Keen, who lives next to the Hoot N Holler, the nearby bar where employees retreated from the fire. "I saw a lot of smoke and could see she was gone. "It's a terrible thing, especially for the workers during this time of year."

Another neighbor, Keith Long, said that he was the first to call 911.

"I was watching the Weather Channel when my wife came in and said, 'Quick, fire, fire.' I ran out there and called 911," said Long. "The smoke was about 400 feet."

Firefighters managed to keep the fire from spreading to the main building or any of the surrounding businesses or homes. Though there were concerns about environmental hazards, residents were not evacuated.

About an hour in, they began to use fire-suppressing foam and began to knock down and eventually contain the fire. Shortly after 2 p.m., the fire was producing significantly less smoke.

"It is a tactical response to a fire involving plastic products. Once you put foam on you basically put out the fire," said Green.

The agencies were limited by the amount of water as there were only two fire hydrants near the plant. Water trucks reloaded tanks at a fire hydrant in front of Zion Lutheran School.

The cause or origin of the fire was unknown, Green said. The investigation would begin after the fire was mopped up.

The facility used to be an old orange packing house before becoming Tuff Stuff. Green was not surprised by the extent of the fire and amount of smoke it put out.

"We've always known that if it were to catch fire it would be a significant fire," Green said.

Brian Williams contributed to this report.

Contact Emily Shapiro at 784-5000, ext. 1050, or on Twitter @EmilyShapirogar



**More From This Site** 

- Neighborhood upset with water haulers
- New marina features pontoon boats and kayaks
- Over 260 receive diplomas from Porterville College
- Canal homicide victim identified
- Long road back: Rangers' Josh Hamilton makes season debut

### From Around The Web

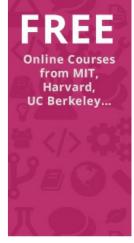
- A popular new site reveals the truth about anyone's past. Simply enter name and state to see what is available online. What will you learn today? (Instant Checkmate)
- This Photographer Had No Idea What Was About To Happen (ViewMixed)
- Little-Known Celebrity Marriages (Answers.com)
- 8 Overrated Historical Celebrities That Actually Achieved Very Little (Answers.com)
- Nobody Had Any Idea What Would Happen Next (UberHavoc)

# Express your opinion! Fill out this form to submit a Letter to the Editor.

SUBMIT A LETTER

Follow Us On Facebook

## FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK









May 2015						0
Su	Мо	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						
todav	's event	s	brows	e	sub	mit

Web2PDF converted by Web2PDFConvert.com

STOCKS

# Recommended by Outbrain

# From The Web



1 Dirty Little Secret To Eliminate 15 Years Of... (LowerMyBills)



Living Bold With Diabet (HealthCentral.com)



11 Most Politically Active Celebs (Suggest)



Sponsored Links by Taboola

How To Use Credit Ca Like The Rich (NextAdvisor)



Garden Delight • Chef's Deluxe • Chunky Chicken • Teriyaki Chicken • Chicken Caesar Chinese Chicken • Greek Chicken • Chicken Penne Pasta Cobb Salad • Beef or Chicken Taco Salad • Steak • Salmon • Southwest		
THE PORTERVILLE	Home About Us	
ecorder	News Contact U	
	Sports Rack Loca	
corderonline.	<sub>c</sub> O <sub>o</sub> pminio nSubscriptiSoenarch in:	
on e n5u5m9b7e8r4-	568 bure <sup>S</sup> services Submissio	
mail:	F 6 6 6 7 e s r A 1 F e a t Vriedse o r A 1 F e a t </td	
<u>corder@porter</u>	Photos Site Index Sport Resotos Videore Add Seeare Toulbar	
<b>drèšš:</b> E. Oak	5 9 6 6 1 4 1	
rterville, CA		
	Online Features	

© Copyright 2015, Porterville Recorder, Porterville, CA. Powered by BLOX Content Management System from TownNews.com

