

Fire in the Cockpit

Public Service Broadcasting

Astronauts Virgil I. Grissom, Edward White and Roger Chaffee were killed tonight in a flash fire during tests of the Apollo Saturn 204 vehicle at Cape Kennedy

The fire occurred while the astronauts were in the spacecraft during the countdown of a simulated flight test

 The accident occurred at 5: 31 Houston time

 Or at T-10 minutes prior to the planned, simulated liftoff

The spacecraft was atop the centre launch vehicle some 218 feet above the launchpad

 The hatches on the spacecraft had been closed

 Emergency crews were hampered by deathly smoke in removing the hatches

 And an unknown number of launch crew workers were treated for smoke in halation

 At the Cape Kennedy Dispensary

 The crew had entered the spacecraft at 2 o'clock this afternoon

 Minor difficulties had been encountered during the countdown

 The difficulty was the Environmental Control System

 And the Communication System

All recorded data has been impounded pending an investigation into the accident that claimed the lives of astronauts Grissom, White and Chaffee

Song Discussions is protected by U.S. Patent 9401941. Other patents pending.

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