

Village of Candle Damaged by Fire

There were no injuries in the sudden, mysterious flash fire that ripped through Candle, 75 miles southwest of Kotzebue, last Wednesday.

Flames started at some undetermined point and spread quickly through half the town, destroying 20 buildings and causing damage estimated at \$100,000.

Candle was once a booming gold-mining center. Although mines in the area are still partly-operated, the town today is largely a ghost town.

About a hundred Eskimo villagers and a handful of White residents live there.

Bureau of Land Management officials in Fairbanks ordered four fire-control aides, college forestry students working for the summer, to the area with a Wien Airlines Pilatus Porter aircraft.

Five local men were hired in Candle to help control the fire, which by yesterday had burned out onto the open tundra.

Roughly 30 acres had been burned by the fire, including

the area the town buildings had been on.

BLM authorities in Fairbanks said their men had the fire under control, and would continue a "mopping up" operation until Saturday.