

Home Made Boat Explodes, Capsizes Off Waikiki Beach

A homemade boat driven by an airplane motor and propeller burned and capsized off Waikiki Beach shortly after noon today.

An eye witness on a catamaran which went to the scene said there appeared to be only one man aboard, apparently the owner, since he was seen attempting to save the motor instead of swimming away. He wasn't injured.

The Coast Guard auxiliary patrol boat Ala Wai, operated by Chic Allen, yacht harbormaster, was towing the hulk to Kewalo Basin at 2 this afternoon.

Two Coast Guard cutters, the Honolulu fire boat, a Navy crash boat and a Navy helicopter were dispatched to the fire.

Eyewitnesses at a beach hotel said they saw the boat explode into flames about 12:10. It capsized at 12:31 p. m.

The boat was described as a wooden hull, with canvas top. It had a small airplane motor for propulsion, using an airplane propeller.

Sally Hale of the Outrigger Canoe Club, said he sent an outrigger out to the burning boat soon after the fire was sighted.

The boat was owned by Philip Jungert, of 311-C Ohua Ave., according to yacht harbor officials.