

Navy Changes Sub Oxygen Hose

Special piping made of soft copper is being used for pumping oxygen aboard submarines because of the June 14 fire and explosion aboard the nuclear submarine Sargo, the Navy said Saturday.

A board of investigation found that the hose that ruptured during the oxygen-loading procedure was approved for the purpose by the Navy and civilian industry.

Such hose had been used for at least four years, the Navy said, adding "...prudence required that its use be temporarily ~~suspended~~."

An improved type of reinforced synthetic rubber hose probably will replace the temporary copper tubing, the Navy said.

The rubber hose in use at the time of the mishap was not substituted for a metal pipe "as some sources reported," the Navy said.

The semi-official Navy

Times had said dock personnel used rubber hose when they could find no metal piping.

The Sargo is being repaired at Pearl Harbor and is expected to begin operating again in October.