

Man who warned of Challenger disaster dies at 73

February 7 2012

The man who warned his employer of the equipment quirk that led to the deadly explosion of the space shuttle Challenger has died. Roger Boisjoly was 73.

A funeral home in Boisjoly's hometown of Nephi, Utah, confirmed his Jan. 6 death with The Associated Press on Tuesday.

Boisjoly (boh-zhoh-LAY') had written an ominous memo to his supervisors at Morton Thiokol six months before the shuttle launched on Jan. 28, 1986. He told the company that [cold weather](#) could compromise the seals connecting sections of the [rocket boosters](#) they manufactured.

Boisjoly and four other engineers pleaded with supervisors for a delay the night before the launch, as temperatures dipped below freezing.

The warning was ignored, and the shuttle exploded 73 seconds after [launch](#). Seven crew members, including teacher Christa McAuliffe, were killed.

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