



Figure 8. Chimney formation phases.

A hemispherical cavity forms at the chimney top, as typically illustrated by the GNOME explosion of 3.1 kilotons detonated 1,200 feet beneath the ground. The cavity is about 75 feet high and 134 to 196 feet across. In Figure 9 note the man standing on rubble, right center.

The rock outside the cavity—chimney region contains a zone with many cracks and fractures. These rock failures generally mean enhanced permeability for a distance away 2 to 4 times the cavity radius, a valuable effect for certain purposes.