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VIRGINIA KEY

Fire prompts Miami to cut Jimbo's power

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Miami officials Monday cut electrical power to Virginia Key landmark Jimbo's — a beer and smokedfish joint that has been battling the city over its right to operate — one day after inspectors deemed it unsafe.

City inspectors said they identified several electrical hazards after firefighters were called to the area Sunday night, when a fire burned through two trailer homes near the restaurant.

At least one trailer in the group of makeshift homes was drawing electricity from the restaurant using exposed power cables, an electrical set-up that firefighters blame for the fire.

In recent months, the city pressured Jimbo's to clean up the nearby area and remove battered vehicles, but this weekend's fire might be the final straw for city code-enforcement officials.

"Because of this fire, a lot of concerns and questions have surfaced," said Miami Fire Rescue spokesman Lt. Ignatius Carroll. "We didn't have anyone die last night, but it could have been worse."

Carroll said a poorly maintained system of cords connected "one hut to another hut, one shack to another shack."

Because of the danger, the city took temporary measures to disconnect the power Monday. Florida Power and Light is expected to cut it off permanently on Tuesday.

The city's actions could mean the end of a local icon, known for its casual atmosphere. The city had previously agreed to allow Jimbo's to remain open while its 82-year-old owner, James "Jimbo" Luznar, was still alive.