

City of
Bellevue



Post Office Box 90012 • Bellevue, Washington • 98009 9012

Kuang Chu
File
PG-041624

October 18, 2004

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SW
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

RECEIVED

OCT 19 2004

WASH. UT. & TP. COMM.

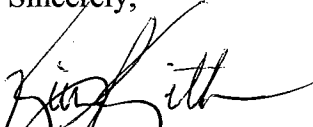
Attention: Kuang Chu

Dear Mr. Chu:

Per your written request dated September 14, 2004, I have enclosed a copy of the Fire Incident Report and Investigator's Report for BEFD Incident #04-11367 which occurred at 16642 SE 26th Place, on September 2, 2004.

If I may be of any further assistance to you in this matter please do not hesitate to contact me at (425) 452-6954.

Sincerely,



Kieron L. Gillmore
Data Analyst
Bellevue Fire Department

Enclosure

"The Bellevue Fire Department exists to assist the public in the protection of life and property by minimizing the impact of fire, medical emergencies, and potential disasters or uncontrolled events that affect the community and environment."

Bellevue Fire Department • 766 Bellevue Way SE • Bellevue, Washington 98004
Phone: [425] 452-6892 • Fax: [425] 452-5287

Incident Report

Bellevue Fire Department

2004-0011367-000

Basic		
Alarm Date and Time	09:30:10	Thursday, September 2, 2004
Arrival Time	09:36:30	
Controlled Date and Time		
Last Unit Cleared Date and Time	20:23:04	Thursday, September 2, 2004
Response Time	0:06:20	
Priority Response	Yes	
Completed	Yes	
Reviewed	Yes	
Fire Department Station	ST2	
Shift	B	
Incident Type	111 - Building fire	
Initial Dispatch Code	99M9	
Aid Given or Received	2 - Automatic aid received	
Mutual Aid Department	17D10	
Alarms	1	
Action Taken 1	11 - Extinguish	
Action Taken 2	33 - Provide advanced life support (ALS)	
Action Taken 3	34 - Transport person	
Casualties	Yes	
EMS Provided	Yes	
Apparatus - Suppression	17	
Apparatus - EMS	2	
Apparatus - Other	3	
Personnel - Suppression Personnel	34	
Personnel - EMS Personnel	4	
Personnel - Other	3	
Property Loss	\$350,000.00	
Contents Loss	\$75,000.00	
Property Value	\$350,000.00	
Contents Value	\$75,000.00	
Other Injuries	1	
Detector Alerted occupants	U	
Hazardous Material Released	1 - Natural gas - slow leak, no evacuation or hazmat actions	
Property Use	419 - 1 or 2 family dwelling	
Location Type	Address	
Address	16645 SE 26th PL	
City, State Zip	BELLEVUE, WA 98008	
District	52	
Census Tract	0179	
Directions	16645 SE 26th Pl	
Latitude	47.586388	
Longitude	122.119036	

Additional Mutual Aid Agencies	
--------------------------------	--

Aid Department	Redmond FD
----------------	------------

Person Involved/Property Owner - Schmitz, Francis	
---	--

Owner	Yes
-------	-----

Incident Report

Bellevue Fire Department

2004-0011367-000

Person Involved/Property Owner - Schmitz, Francis

Name Prefix	MS
Last Name	Schmitz
First Name	Francis
Street Address	16645 SE 26th PL
City, State Zip	BELLEVUE, WA 98008

Person Involved - Schmitz, Frank

Name Prefix	MR
Last Name	Schmitz
First Name	Frank
Business Name	Cell 206-914-1119 Son of
Street Address	26513 292nd AVE SE
City, State Zip	Ravensdale, WA 98051
Phone	4254331234

Person Involved - Schmitz, Jim

Name Prefix	MR
Last Name	Schmitz
First Name	Jim
Business Name	Son of owner
Street Address	8012 266th ST E
City, State Zip	Graham, WA 98338
Phone	2533076897

Fire

Structure Type	1 - Enclosed building
Number of Residential	1
Number of Buildings Involved	1
Number of Buildings Threatened	3
Area of Origin	UU - Undetermined
Heat Source	UU - Undetermined
Item First Ignited	65 - Flammable liquid/gas - uncontained
Type of Material	10 - Flammable gas, other
Cause of Ignition	5 - Cause under investigation
Contribution To Ignition 1	23 - Leak or break
Contribution To Ignition 2	42 - Construction deficiency
Human Factors	None
Suppression Factor 1	112 - Roof collapse
Suppression Factor 2	131 - Wall collapse
Suppression Factor 3	141 - Floor collapse
Mobile Equipment Involved	N - None
Equipment Type	UUU - Undetermined
Equipment Power	UU - Undetermined
Equipment Portability	2 - Stationary

Structure

Status	2 - Occupied and operating
Floor of Origin	1

Incident Report

Bellevue Fire Department

2004-0011367-000

Structure	
Stories Above Grade	1
Stories Below Grade	1
Total Square Feet	2200
Fire Spread	5 - Beyond building of origin
Stories with Extreme Damage	2
Item Contributing To Spread	65 - Flammable liquid/gas - uncontained
Type of Material Contributing To	63 - Sawn wood, including all finished lumber

EMS Scene	
Paramedic Response	Yes
ID of First Unit on Scene	M2
Number of Patients This Incident	1

Incident Report

Bellevue Fire Department

2004-0011367-000

EMS Patient - Schmitz, Frances	
First Name	Frances
Last Name	Schmitz
Street Address	16645 SE 26 PL
City, State Zip	Bellevue, WA 98009
Gender	2 - Female
Date of Birth	August 16, 1936
Age	68
Arrived At Patient Date and Time	09:36:30 Thursday, September 2, 2004
Provider Impression / Assessment	380 - Trauma
Cause of Illness/Injury	220 - BU - Burn
Highest Level of Care	4 - ALS
Human Factors	None
Severity of Injury	Life Threatening
Transporting Unit	M2
Receiving Facility	029 - Harborview Medical Center
Onset Datetime	September 2, 2004
Band Number	2413738

EMS Patient - Schmitz, Frances Triage Criteria	
Triage Criteria 1	Combination of burns > 20% or involv. face (Anatomy of Injury)

EMS Patient - Schmitz, Frances Injuries	
Injured Body Site 1	Other / Multisystem, Circumferential
Injury Type 1	Severe Multiple Injury, Burn - Partial Thickness

EMS Patient - Schmitz, Frances Flow Chart	
09:36:30 - Oxygen	Attempts = ; Quantity = ; Size = ;
Provider	- ,
Charge	\$0.00
09:37:30 - ECG Monitor	Rhythm = Sinus; Rate = ; Lead = ; Ectopy =
Provider	- ,
Charge	\$0.00
09:38:30 - Plan B	Attempts = ; Quantity = ; Size = ;
Provider	- ,
Success	Yes
Charge	\$0.00
09:39:30 - IV - Peripheral	Solution = ; Site = ; Size = ; Rate =
Provider	145 - Burton, Fernando
Success	Yes
Charge	\$0.00
09:40:30 - IV - Peripheral	Solution = ; Site = ; Size = ; Rate =
Provider	285 - Tetzlaff, John G
Success	Yes
Charge	\$0.00
09:41:30 - IV - Peripheral	Solution = ; Site = ; Size = ; Rate =
Provider	254 - Nipert, Patrick
Success	Yes
Charge	\$0.00

Incident Report

Bellevue Fire Department

2004-0011367-000

Civilian Casualty - Schmitz, Frances

First Name	Frances
Last Name	Schmitz
Street Address	16645 SE 26 PL
City, State Zip	Bellevue, WA 98009
Gender	2 - Female
Age	68
Date of Birth	August 16, 1936
Severity	4 - Life threatening
Injury Date and Time	09:30:00 Thursday, September 2, 2004
Cause of Injury	1 - Exposed to fire products
Activity When Injured	U - Undetermined
Primary Body Part Injured	9 - Multiple parts
Primary Symptom	11 - Burns and smoke inhalation
Affiliation	1
Contributing Factor 1	11 - Roof collapse
Contributing Factor 2	12 - Wall collapse
Human Factors	None
Transported to EMS Facility	Yes
Location at Time of Incident	4 - In area of origin and involved
General Location at Time Injury	1 - In area of origin
Specific Location	24 - On aerial ladder or in basket
Floor At Start of Incident	1
Floor When Injury Occurred	1

Apparatus - E12

Apparatus ID	E12
Apparatus Dispatch Date and Time	09:52:57 Thursday, September 2, 2004
En route to scene date and time	09:56:17 Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus Clear Date and Time	10:02:29 Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus priority response	Yes
Apparatus cancelled after dispatch	Yes
Apparatus Use	1
Apparatus Action Taken 1	93 - Cancelled en route
Apparatus Type	11 - Engine

Apparatus - E1

Apparatus ID	E1
Response Time	0:09:55
Apparatus Dispatch Date and Time	09:52:57 Thursday, September 2, 2004
En route to scene date and time	09:54:34 Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus Arrival Date and Time	10:04:29 Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus Clear Date and Time	10:11:57 Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus priority response	Yes
Number of People	3
Apparatus Use	1
Apparatus Action Taken 1	92 - Standby
Apparatus Type	11 - Engine
Personnel 1	300 - Santangelo, William J

Incident Report

Bellevue Fire Department

2004-0011367-000

Apparatus - E1

Personnel 2	Position: FF 268 - Murphy, Beth L
Personnel 3	Position: AL 338 - Donlin, Troy R Position: FF

Apparatus - E8

Apparatus ID	E8
Response Time	0:08:21
Apparatus Dispatch Date and Time	09:30:38 Thursday, September 2, 2004
En route to scene date and time	09:33:10 Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus Arrival Date and Time	09:41:31 Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus Clear Date and Time	10:25:09 Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus priority response	Yes
Number of People	3
Apparatus Use	1
Apparatus Action Taken 1	11 - Extinguish
Apparatus Type	11 - Engine
Personnel 1	17 - Franco, Joe J Position: LT.
Personnel 2	219 - Harn, John P Position: ENG
Personnel 3	216 - Pierson, Phil Position: MED

Apparatus - E72

Apparatus ID	E72
Response Time	0:12:51
Apparatus Dispatch Date and Time	09:36:33 Thursday, September 2, 2004
En route to scene date and time	09:39:38 Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus Arrival Date and Time	09:52:29 Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus Clear Date and Time	10:30:53 Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus priority response	Yes
Apparatus Use	1
Apparatus Action Taken 1	92 - Standby
Apparatus Type	11 - Engine

Apparatus - AU1

Apparatus ID	AU1
Apparatus Dispatch Date and Time	10:17:41 Thursday, September 2, 2004
En route to scene date and time	10:17:42 Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus Clear Date and Time	10:43:17 Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus priority response	Yes
Apparatus cancelled after dispatch	Yes
Apparatus Use	1
Apparatus Action Taken 1	93 - Cancelled en route
Apparatus Type	61 - Breathing apparatus support

Incident Report

Bellevue Fire Department

2004-0011367-000**Apparatus - E6**

Apparatus ID	E6
Response Time	0:08:42
Apparatus Dispatch Date and Time	09:36:33 Thursday, September 2, 2004
En route to scene date and time	09:38:22 Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus Arrival Date and Time	09:47:04 Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus Clear Date and Time	10:52:38 Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus priority response	Yes
Number of People	3
Apparatus Use	1
Apparatus Action Taken 1	11 - Extinguish
Apparatus Type	11 - Engine
Personnel 1	136 - Baker, Bruce S Position: ENG
Personnel 2	156 - Crueger, Bob K Position: FF
Personnel 3	231 - Keenan, Eric Position: LT.

Apparatus - A3

Apparatus ID	A3
Response Time	0:11:46
Apparatus Dispatch Date and Time	09:43:35 Thursday, September 2, 2004
En route to scene date and time	09:43:35 Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus Arrival Date and Time	09:55:21 Thursday, September 2, 2004
En route to facility date and time	10:05:49 Thursday, September 2, 2004
Arrive facility date and time	10:13:55 Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus Clear Date and Time	10:57:09 Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus priority response	Yes
Number of People	2
Apparatus Use	2
Apparatus Action Taken 1	34 - Transport person
Apparatus Type	75 - BLS unit
Personnel 1	318 - Symons, Scott Position: FF
Personnel 2	47 - Lindenmayer, Larry L Position: FF

Apparatus - MSO5

Apparatus ID	MSO5
Response Time	0:04:36
Apparatus Dispatch Date and Time	09:30:38 Thursday, September 2, 2004
En route to scene date and time	09:33:26 Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus Arrival Date and Time	09:38:02 Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus Clear Date and Time	11:11:22 Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus priority response	Yes
Number of People	1
Apparatus Use	1
Apparatus Action Taken 1	81 - Incident command

Incident Report

Bellevue Fire Department

2004-0011367-000

Apparatus - MSO5

Apparatus Type	701 - Medical Services Officer
Personnel 1	82 - Davison, Paul Position: LT. MSO

Apparatus - M2

Apparatus ID	M2
Response Time	0:02:54
Apparatus Dispatch Date and Time	09:33:35 Thursday, September 2, 2004
En route to scene date and time	09:33:36 Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus Arrival Date and Time	09:36:30 Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus Clear Date and Time	11:12:57 Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus priority response	Yes
Number of People	2
Apparatus Use	2
Apparatus Action Taken 1	33 - Provide advanced life support (ALS)
Apparatus Type	76 - ALS unit
Personnel 1	254 - Nipert, Patrick Position: MED
Personnel 2	Personnel Action Taken 1: 33 - Provide advanced life support (ALS) 285 - Tetzlaff, John G Position: MED

Apparatus - E4

Apparatus ID	E4
Response Time	0:07:40
Apparatus Dispatch Date and Time	09:30:38 Thursday, September 2, 2004
En route to scene date and time	09:32:37 Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus Arrival Date and Time	09:40:17 Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus Clear Date and Time	11:41:36 Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus priority response	Yes
Number of People	3
Apparatus Use	1
Apparatus Action Taken 1	11 - Extinguish
Apparatus Type	11 - Engine
Personnel 1	345 - Dodson, Anthony R Position: FF
Personnel 2	210 - Metter, Todd W Position: ENG
Personnel 3	276 - Gibson, David Position: FF

Apparatus - BE150

Apparatus ID	BE150
Response Time	0:18:09
Apparatus Dispatch Date and Time	10:19:31 Thursday, September 2, 2004
En route to scene date and time	10:19:32 Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus Arrival Date and Time	10:37:41 Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus Clear Date and Time	12:20:55 Thursday, September 2, 2004

Incident Report

Bellevue Fire Department

2004-0011367-000

Apparatus - BE150

Number of People	1
Apparatus Use	1
Apparatus Action Taken 1	70 - Assistance, other
Apparatus Type	99 - Privately owned vehicle
Personnel 1	357 - Ryan, Michael R Position: CHAPLAIN

Apparatus - BE151

Apparatus ID	BE151
Apparatus Dispatch Date and Time	10:17:08 Thursday, September 2, 2004
En route to scene date and time	10:17:09 Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus Arrival Date and Time	10:17:09 Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus Clear Date and Time	12:20:56 Thursday, September 2, 2004
Number of People	1
Apparatus Use	1
Apparatus Action Taken 1	70 - Assistance, other
Apparatus Type	99 - Privately owned vehicle
Personnel 1	356 - Folmar, Allan C Position: CHAPLAIN

Apparatus - LF7

Apparatus ID	LF7
Response Time	0:09:14
Apparatus Dispatch Date and Time	09:38:10 Thursday, September 2, 2004
En route to scene date and time	09:38:10 Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus Arrival Date and Time	09:47:24 Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus Clear Date and Time	12:24:28 Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus priority response	Yes
Number of People	5
Apparatus Use	1
Apparatus Action Taken 1	21 - Search
Apparatus Type	121 - Light Force
Personnel 1	172 - Halbert, Doug Position: FF
Personnel 2	72 - Larson, Bill A Position: CAPT
Personnel 3	104 - McLaughlin, Doug Position: FF
Personnel 4	271 - Pancerzewski, Cindy G Position: FF
Personnel 5	275 - Burns, Tobias J Position: FF

Apparatus - E2

Apparatus ID	E2
Response Time	0:06:08
Apparatus Dispatch Date and Time	09:30:38 Thursday, September 2, 2004
En route to scene date and time	09:33:59 Thursday, September 2, 2004

Incident Report

Bellevue Fire Department

2004-0011367-000**Apparatus - E2**

Apparatus Arrival Date and Time	09:40:07	Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus Clear Date and Time	12:26:19	Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus priority response	Yes	
Number of People	3	
Apparatus Use	1	
Apparatus Action Taken 1	11 - Extinguish	
Apparatus Type	11 - Engine	
Personnel 1	332 - Ferguson, Camari J	
	Position: FF	
	Personnel Action Taken 1: 11 - Extinguish	
Personnel 2	53 - Hatch, James G	
	Position: LT.	
Personnel 3	84 - Moreno, Mario	
	Position: ENG	

Apparatus - BE120

Apparatus ID	BE120	
Response Time	0:00:02	
Apparatus Dispatch Date and Time	11:26:29	Thursday, September 2, 2004
En route to scene date and time	11:26:30	Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus Arrival Date and Time	11:26:32	Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus Clear Date and Time	12:27:43	Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus priority response	Yes	
Number of People	1	
Apparatus Use	1	
Apparatus Action Taken 1	81 - Incident command	
Apparatus Type	927 - Training Commander	
Personnel 1	76 - Merritt, Warren A	
	Position: CMDR TD	

Apparatus - B1

Apparatus ID	B1	
Response Time	0:08:16	
Apparatus Dispatch Date and Time	09:30:38	Thursday, September 2, 2004
En route to scene date and time	09:32:52	Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus Arrival Date and Time	09:41:08	Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus Clear Date and Time	13:03:00	Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus priority response	Yes	
Number of People	2	
Apparatus Use	1	
Apparatus Action Taken 1	81 - Incident command	
Apparatus Type	91 - Mobile command post	
Personnel 1	238 - Bailey, Ken	
	Position: FF	
Personnel 2	87 - Daily, Mike P	
	Position: BC	

Apparatus - BE121

Incident Report

Bellevue Fire Department

2004-0011367-000**Apparatus - BE121**

Apparatus ID	BE121
Response Time	0:00:01
Apparatus Dispatch Date and Time	10:29:17 Thursday, September 2, 2004
En route to scene date and time	10:29:17 Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus Arrival Date and Time	10:29:18 Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus Clear Date and Time	13:10:35 Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus priority response	Yes
Number of People	1
Apparatus Use	1
Apparatus Action Taken 1	92 - Standby
Apparatus Type	928 - Training Officer
Personnel 1	221 - Kemp, Laura M Position: T.O.

Apparatus - LF3

Apparatus ID	LF3
Response Time	0:06:28
Apparatus Dispatch Date and Time	09:30:38 Thursday, September 2, 2004
En route to scene date and time	09:33:08 Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus Arrival Date and Time	09:39:36 Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus Clear Date and Time	15:34:48 Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus priority response	Yes
Number of People	4
Apparatus Use	1
Apparatus Action Taken 1	11 - Extinguish
Apparatus Action Taken 2	12 - Salvage & overhaul
Apparatus Action Taken 3	58 - Operate apparatus or vehicle
Apparatus Type	121 - Light Force
Personnel 1	248 - McManis, Tim Position: FF Personnel Action Taken 1: 11 - Extinguish Personnel Action Taken 2: 12 - Salvage & overhaul
Personnel 2	299 - Guitron, Kevin A Position: FF Personnel Action Taken 1: 11 - Extinguish Personnel Action Taken 2: 12 - Salvage & overhaul
Personnel 3	255 - Spivey, Del Position: FF Personnel Action Taken 1: 11 - Extinguish Personnel Action Taken 2: 12 - Salvage & overhaul
Personnel 4	154 - Wentland, Bob D Position: ENG Personnel Action Taken 1: 58 - Operate apparatus or vehicle Personnel Action Taken 2: 12 - Salvage & overhaul

Apparatus - BE134

Apparatus ID	BE134
Response Time	0:12:48

Incident Report

Bellevue Fire Department

2004-0011367-000

Apparatus - BE134

Apparatus Dispatch Date and Time	10:03:28	Thursday, September 2, 2004
En route to scene date and time	10:03:29	Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus Arrival Date and Time	10:16:17	Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus Clear Date and Time	17:28:25	Thursday, September 2, 2004
Number of People	1	
Apparatus Use	0	
Apparatus Action Taken 1	86 - Investigate	
Apparatus Type	922 - Fire Prevention Officer	
Personnel 1	241 - Gerard, Scott E	
	Position: INSP	

Apparatus - BE138

Apparatus ID	BE138	
Response Time	0:53:25	
Apparatus Dispatch Date and Time	10:03:34	Thursday, September 2, 2004
En route to scene date and time	10:03:35	Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus Arrival Date and Time	10:57:00	Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus Clear Date and Time	20:23:04	Thursday, September 2, 2004
Number of People	1	
Apparatus Use	0	
Apparatus Action Taken 1	86 - Investigate	
Apparatus Type	922 - Fire Prevention Officer	
Personnel 1	296 - Erb, Ted S	
	Position: INSP	

Apparatus - BE143

Apparatus ID	BE143	
Response Time	0:36:25	
Apparatus Dispatch Date and Time	10:03:38	Thursday, September 2, 2004
En route to scene date and time	10:03:38	Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus Arrival Date and Time	10:40:03	Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus Clear Date and Time	20:23:04	Thursday, September 2, 2004
Number of People	1	
Apparatus Use	0	
Apparatus Action Taken 1	86 - Investigate	
Apparatus Type	922 - Fire Prevention Officer	
Personnel 1	308 - Altenburg, Dwight	
	Position: INSP	
	Personnel Action Taken 1: 86 - Investigate	

Apparatus - E8A

Apparatus ID	E8A	
Response Time	0:08:02	
Apparatus Dispatch Date and Time	11:47:44	Thursday, September 2, 2004
En route to scene date and time	11:49:46	Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus Arrival Date and Time	11:57:48	Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus Clear Date and Time	20:23:04	Thursday, September 2, 2004
Apparatus priority response	Yes	

Incident Report

Bellevue Fire Department

2004-0011367-000

Apparatus - E8A

Number of People	3
Apparatus Use	1
Apparatus Action Taken 1	92 - Standby
Apparatus Type	11 - Engine
Personnel 1	257 - Evans, William R Position: FF
Personnel 2	203 - Ledbetter, Melissa R Position: FF
Personnel 3	92 - Thomas, Steven P Position: CAPT

Authority

Reported By	312 - Gillmore, Kieron L 07:17:05 Friday, September 3, 2004
Officer In Charge	312 - Gillmore, Kieron L 07:17:08 Friday, September 3, 2004
Reviewer	312 - Gillmore, Kieron L 09:42:42 Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Narratives

Narrative Name	LF3 ops & observatio
Narrative Type	Company
Narrative Date	18:44:32 Thursday, September 2, 2004
Author	255 - Spivey, Del
Author Rank	AL
Author Assignment	1
Narrative Text	LF 3 was dispatched to a full response of an explosion with fire. Enroute to the scene we could see a smoke column from over 30 blocks away. Upon LF3's arrival the structure was full involved with extension to the Side "C" fence. There was a power line down. E2 was on scene with a 2 1/2" line flowing and a supply in process of being established. M2 was on scene with a patient and MSO5 was the incident commander. LF3 was given the order to set up a ladder pipe operation and also to pull an exposuer line to the Side "B" and Side "C" region of the exterior of the building. After fire knock down LF3 assisted with salvage and overhaul along with hot spot extinguishment.

Narrative Name	E-2
Narrative Type	Incident
Narrative Date	22:24:58 Thursday, September 2, 2004
Author	53 - Hatch, James G
Author Rank	LT.
Author Assignment	1
Narrative Text	E-2 SECURED A HYDRANT AND LAYED FORWARD...FIREFIGHTER FERGUSON 2 1/2 ATTACK LINE SIDE A ...LT. HATCH 2 1/2 ATTACK LINE TO SIDE D...FIREFIGHTER FERGUSON PUMPER OPERATOR E-2... ENGINEER / FIREFIGHTER MORENO

End of Report



Bellevue Fire Department

Fire Investigation Report

Date / Time of Alarm: 09-02-2004 / 0930 hours	Incident No. 04-11367
Location: 16645 S.E. 26 th Pl. Bellevue, Wa. 98008	Police Case No. 04B-10483
Owner: Frances F. Schmitz	Phone: Son/ Frank @ © 206-914-1119
Occupant: Same	Phone: (H) 425-433-1234
Insurance Co. State Farm / Karen Sacco	Phone: 206-431-1798
Estimated Total Loss: \$350,000	Claim No. 47-M129971
Investigated by: Dwight Altenburg #143	Cause: Accidental

- | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Description of Premises | 5. Additional Information | 9. Casualties |
| 2. Weather Conditions | 6. Area of Origin | 10. Evidence |
| 3. Exterior Examination | 7. Source of Ignition | 11. Disposition |
| 4. Interior Examination | 8. Investigator's Conclusion | |

1. Description:

This was a wood frame one story home, with a daylight basement, constructed in 1963. The home had a two car attached carport. The roof was a sloped roof covered with a composition type material. The approximate total square footage was 2,180 square feet.

2. Weather:

Skies were partly sunny with the temperature in the low to mid 60 degree range. The winds were mild approximately 3-5 mph out of the east and north blowing southwesterly.

3. Exterior:

The exterior exam began at the northwest side of the home at the driveway entrance. Burned overhead electrical service wires had fallen onto S.E. 26th Pl. across from the driveway. Debris resulting from the explosion was scattered on the road and across the street into the neighbor's yards. The driveway led to a two car attached carport on the northwest side of the house. The burned roof of the carport had collapsed onto a newer model Cadillac sedan license # S/L43745 which was parked under it. The car sustained heavy flame damage. Under the carport on the north side of the home was the main entrance door. The damaged door was lying on the

driveway approximately 10 feet north of the opening. The first floor exterior wall on the north side of the house was heavily damaged but remained in an upright position. The first floor exterior north wall was bowed out from the basement wall approximately 10 inches. The chimney on the north side of the house was left standing and in tact. The remaining first floor wall from the chimney to the northeast corner was burned to the floor.

The east side of the home allowed access to the daylight basement. A cedar fence east of the basement was heavily charred. Broken glass and debris were against the fence and into the yard of the neighbor.

The south side of the Schmitz home was heavily damaged. The gas meter was on the south side of the home. The meter was heavily damaged. The neighbor's house on the south side sustained heat damage to its exterior siding, window and blinds.

The west side of the home faced S.E. 26th Pl. The exterior wall and gable above the wall had been blown out from the house by the gas explosion and were lying in the front yard intact. The roof was consumed by fire after it had collapsed inside the house and on top of the first floor.

4. **Interior:**

- The interior exam of the first floor was conducted from the outside due to structural safety concerns. The first level floor joists had sustained heavy charring. The first floor kitchen area of approximately 12 ft. x 14 ft. had collapsed into the basement near the center of the home.
- The interior exam of the basement began at the laundry room in the northwest corner of the home which was heavily damaged. The bathroom and furnace room was on the north side of the home at the bottom of the stairs. The gas hot water tank was in the furnace room.
- In the northeast corner of the home were two fireplace inserts. The glass door covers for the inserts were in tact.
- On the east side of the basement was a heavily damaged family room. In the southeast corner was a small stainless steel sink in a partially collapsed counter. A rubber drain hose from the sink extended through an opening in the south basement foundation wall. There was not a "P" trap

attached to the sink drain (Definition: In plumbing, a trap with a vertical inlet and a horizontal outlet).

- In the southwest corner of the basement was a bedroom which contained a safe.
- The gas piping inside the house to all appliances was damaged by the building collapse and fire. Natural gas appliances reportedly consisted of the hot water tank, furnace, two fireplace inserts and a fixed barbecue on the south deck.

5. Additional Information:

- Neighbors were gathered outside before the explosion, in a cul-de-sac at the southwest corner of the property, with an employee from Puget Sound Energy (PSE). The neighbors to the west and south of the incident reported smelling an odor of gas. A neighbor reported the smell to PSE at approximately 8:30 A.M. One neighbor across the street reportedly smelled an odor of gas as early as 7:30 A.M., but then it would disappear. An employee of PSE arrived on scene at approximately 9:00 A.M. He was checking his gas meter for the source of the odor when the explosion of the Schmitz house occurred. See witness statements given to the Bellevue Police and Fire Departments.
- Witnesses reported seeing flames initially coming from the south side of the house. The roof was reportedly lifted in the air above the house, then collapsed within the home after the explosion. First floor walls were described as falling out from the house. Neighbors reported being able to see through the first floor of the house. Firefighters first on scene described the flames as extending from the first floor down into the basement.
- The natural gas service line was reportedly a ¾ in. inside diameter steel pipe buried in the ground. The gas line extended from the southwest corner of the Schmitz' yard towards their house along the south side of the foundation wall.
- Puget Sound Energy (PSE) dug the first of three holes to expose the service pipe. They clamped the pipe in the first hole at the neighbors home on the south side. The gas did not shut off at the Schmitz house.

- PSE located the service pipe in the Schmitz' yard and dug a second hole to clamp the service pipe. I observed bubbles in the water of the hole from a gas leak prior to clamping the pipe. This hole was approximately 8 feet from the main gas line located to the west. (See rough drawing detail.)
- Puget Sound Energy later requested to dig a third hole next to the main gas line and welded the service line shut to prevent further contamination of the pipe. An approximate 8-inch length of gas pipe was removed by PSE where they had welded it closed near the main. Mr. James Hamlin from PSE reported to me that small hairline holes were discovered in the gas pipe by using a soapy water solution revealing corrosion on the pipe. Mr. Hamlin said these holes would not have released sufficient levels of gas accumulations to cause this explosion. PSE employees secured the 8-inch piece of pipe in a locked vehicle and said it would be placed in their evidence locker and made available to all interested parties for testing and examination.
- Engineers from the Washington Utilities Transportation Commission (WUTC) arrived on site and described their presence as oversight for the operations of PSE, and to observe the continuing investigation.
- Bellevue Fire Department posted and maintained a fire watch at 8:23 P.M. until relieved by fire investigators the next morning. State Farm Insurance also provided a fence for the property and a private security firm as well.
- On Friday 9-3-2004 at 7:45 A.M. Bellevue Fire Department investigators continued their origin and cause investigation with interested parties. These included representatives from PSE, WUTC, Bellevue Fire Department, Schafer Engineering, State Farm Insurance, Pilchuck Contractors, Western Engineering and McBride Construction. A meeting was held with an outline of what would be conducted.
- Pilchuck Contractors and PSE employees took gas readings of soil saturation in the southwest corner of the Schmitz' yard. Numeric paint markings labeled the percent of saturation levels.

- The gas service pipe was buried approximately 32 inches below the meter on the south side of the home. This depth varied as the pipe extended west towards the main gas line.
- The gas service line was capped and pressurized with air between the main line and meter. The compressor could not keep up with the loss of pressure. Crews then uncovered the gas service line along the south side of the home. A black plastic, flexible drain pipe, approximately three inches diameter was uncovered. As the digging continued large drain rocks were uncovered near the area where the meter was located. A thick rubber hose approximately of one and one quarter inch diameter was uncovered coming out from the south foundation wall. The rubber hose was below the storm drain pipe running along the foundation wall. The rubber hose was attached to a sink drain inside the basement. The gas service line was located below the rubber hose, drain rocks and plastic drain pipe.
- A hole in the gas service line was located approximately 17 inches below the rubber drain hose. (See photo DA 1 – 21) The hole in the gas service line was approximately one and one quarter inch long by one eighth inch wide. (See photos DA 1-10 through 12.)
- A section of gas pipe approximately 8 feet in length was removed which had the hole in it. The section of pipe removed was between where the meter was attached towards the main line. (See photos DA 1-13 and DA 1-14 .)
- The remaining gas line was again pressure-tested from the first cut towards the main. A pressure of approximately 40 psi was sustained for at least 20 minutes.
- The remaining gas service line was removed in approximately 8-10 foot lengths to allow for transporting and storage at PSE.
- The owner's sons and family members arrived on site. A property release form was filled out by Frank Schmitz for valuables he identified as belonging to him which he kept at his mother's house. A private security firm for the insurance company of the owner maintained security over the holiday weekend. I arrived at 7:15 A.M. on Tuesday 9/7/04 and met Frank Schmitz, the owner's son, and John Stone from Schaefer Engineering. The security firm was requested to

remain in custody of the scene by the owner. At 9:40 A.M. the Bellevue Fire Department released the scene and house to the homeowner's son Frank Schmitz.

- On 9-7-04 an on site WUTC engineer Kuang Chu, stated to John Stone, Frank Schmitz and I, that he observed the cathodic protection for the piping as having reversed charges on it from tests conducted earlier. This observation was reportedly nearby, west of the Schmitz home, where PSE crews and Pilchuck Contractor's were working.

6. **Area of Origin:**

The most probable area of fire origin occurred on the south side of the first floor. The majority of damage occurred to the first floor and roof. Neighbors reported seeing the initial flames as extending up from the south side of the home. Initial fire attack companies described the flames as traveling from upstairs towards the basement.

(gas meter side)

7. **Source of Ignition:**

The source of ignition is undetermined. The gas appliances or other fixed ignition sources within the home cannot be ruled out at this time. There were many possible sources of ignition for the gas to ignite.

8. **Investigator's Conclusion:**

In conclusion, natural gas accumulated within the structure through construction openings as it escaped from a hole(s) in the outside gas service pipe before the meter connection.

- A hole existed in the gas service line buried underground along the south side of the homes foundation.
- Natural gas saturation point measurements in the ground, were taken by crews near the southwest corner of the house, with ranges between 0 to 40% concentration. This would account for the odor of natural gas smelled by neighbors across the street.(See photos SG 6-27A through 6-34A)
- The escaping gas was lighter than air. The gas entered the home through construction openings of the home. A rubber hose attached to the interior sink extended through the exterior foundation

wall approximately 10 inches. The hose terminated above where the hole in the gas pipe was located.

- The gas ignited when it reached its explosive range which is between 4-14% concentration with air, and came in contact with an undetermined ignition source.

9. Casualties:

The owner of the home sustained varying degrees of severe burns from the gas explosion. Medic One transported the victim to Harborview Hospital Burn Unit. The victim later died on Sunday September 26th, 2004 from sustained injuries. No other persons were injured. Two pets were in the house at the time of the explosion. A cat escaped and neighbors took the cat to a local veterinarians office. The pet cat was in satisfactory condition. An approximately 18 year old small poodle dog did not survive the explosion and fire. He was not found.

10. Evidence:

No physical evidence was removed by the Bellevue Fire Department. Clothing removed from the victim by Fire Department Paramedics was labeled and taken by Bellevue Police and retained as evidence.

The following items were placed in the fire investigation file:

- Photos by the Bellevue Fire Department and Police Department. (Digital CD, DVD)
- Witness statements taken by Bellevue Fire and Police Department.
- Rough diagrams and property maps and tax records.
- Dispatching audio tapes and transcripts.
- All notes from this investigation and subsequent meetings with WUTC and PSE.
- PSE emergency procedures and copies of dispatch records for this incident are included.
- Permit requests from City of Bellevue Building Department.
- Newspaper articles regarding this incident.

- Fire Incident reports from engine company officers first on scene.

11. Disposition:

This fire is determined to be accidental in nature. Evaluation of the gas piping, meter, appliances and electrical panels are being viewed and evaluated by interested parties at a later mutually agreed upon date. These parties consist of the WUTC, PSE, private insurers and home owner's representatives, and GT Engineers of Redmond.