

**Garden Grove Fire Department  
Origin and Cause Report**

Accidental Structure  
9052 Imperial Ave. Garden Grove  
7/28/15 02:52 hours  
GGFD Incident 15-08501

**INTRODUCTION**

*Origin and Cause Investigation includes:*

- **Written Reports**
- **Interviews**

**NOTIFICATION AND RESPONSE**

At 02:52 on 07/28/2015, I was dispatched to a structure fire at 9052 Imperial Ave. in Garden Grove. I arrived at 02:57 on Grove truck 1 and presented myself to the Incident Commander, Battalion Chief Green. He informed me that a fire had occurred in the residence at the address listed.

**WEATHER (Weather Underground)**

The weather at the time of my response was calm. The winds were calm. The temperature was approximately 69 degrees. The weather had no effect on the fire.

**PROPERTY DESCRIPTION**

The structure is a single story residence with a stucco exterior and drywall interior. The roof is composition shingle.

***Utilities:***

**Electrical**

The properties electrical service is provided by Edison. The structures electrical system is supplied by overhead feed that is attached to a meter and panel on the structures north side. The electrical power to the property was determined to have been on at the time the fire occurred.

**Natural Gas or Other Fuel**

The natural gas system is supplied through a meter located on the structure west side. The gas service is provided by the Southern California Gas Company, and appeared to have been on at the time of the fire.

## Water

Domestic water service is provided to the structure via the city utility. The water was on at the time of the fire.

## *Fire Protection and Detection Systems:*

The examination of the structure revealed that it had been equipped with 1 battery powered smoke detector in the kitchen.

## *Condition of Structure at time of Investigation:*

The fire had destroyed the kitchen. The fire extended into the attic area and caused major damage, and resulted in severe damage to those area(s). The remaining structure was intact with smoke and heat damage.

## *Reported Injuries*

At the time of my fire scene examination, I did learn of any injuries as a result of this fire.  
INJURIES-INCLUDED

6 total patients, 2 had 2<sup>nd</sup> degree burns sent to UCI medical center and 4 with smoke inhalation sent to West Med Santa Ana

## *Identification of Reporting Party*

The fire was first observed and reported by tenant.

## **FIRE SCENE EXAMINATION**

### *Exterior Examination*

I began my exterior examination of the loss property at the front or south side. As I looked across the north side I could observe the curbside address.

I then moved to the east side and observed the concrete driveway. As I moved counterclockwise around the structure I noticed smoke staining from the windows on the east side of the structure. On the north side of the structure west of the detached garage the only visible damage was smoke staining. The electrical panel was located on the northwest corner of the structure. To the west side I observed no visible damage to the structure.

The natural gas meter was located to the west of the loss unit and showed no signs of malfunction or fire damage. The electrical power entered through an overhead feed with the

electrical meter located to the northwest of the loss unit. Examination of the electrical meter revealed no fire damage.

### ***Interior Examination***

Subsequent to the completion of my exterior examination of the loss property, I entered into the structure through the front door. The doorframe and front door showed no signs of forced entry. There was heavy smoke staining at the front entrance, and damage on the ceiling drywall that occurred from the firefighting efforts. Moving again counterclockwise to the living room, to find heavy smoke staining throughout this area. Moving from least damage to most damage I found only smoke damage to the three bedrooms and the bathroom. The family room sustained fire and smoke damage. The kitchen sustained the heaviest amount of damage and it moved up into the attic.

### **INTERVIEWS**

Name            Captain Troutman  
Address        OCFA Engine 66 Captain  
Relation to Fire: Firefighter

Captain Troutman was the first on scene captain to arrive at the loss structure. He stated that all victims were outside of the structure when they arrive. He also stated that one of the victims stated that they had a candle burning in the room of origin. They told him they think the candle had fallen over.

Name            Maria Montoya  
Address        9052 Imperial Ave. Garden Grove  
Relation to Fire: Tenant

I was able to speak with Mrs. Montoya a couple weeks after the fire via a phone call to me at the fire station. She stated that they had problems with the oven and it had been malfunctioning. She also stated that the landlords were aware and had a maintenance company out to look at it. I asked her about any candles and she told me that she was not sure if there were any candles in the room of origin.

### **EXAMINATION OF POTENTIAL IGNITION SOURCES**

#### ***Structures Electrical System:***

The structures electrical system was did not contribute to this fire.

#### ***Electrical Contents:***

Examination of the electrical contents in the area of origin were not ruled out as having contributed to this fire.

***Gas Appliances and Gas Distribution System:***

Gas Appliances and /or the gas distribution system did not contribute to this fire.

***Exhaust Flues:***

Exhaust flues did not contribute to this fire.

***Smoking Material:***

No smoking materials were noticed in the area of origin, nor were they found in the house.

***Candles/Incense (Open Flame):***

There were candles in the area of origin.

***Spontaneous Combustion:***

The elements for spontaneous combustion did not exist in the area of origin.

***Incendiary:***

Incendiary device did not contribute to this fire.

***Additional Investigation:***

No additional investigation was conducted

**Ignition Source/Material First Ignited/Fire Development**

This fire's specific ignition source is undetermined. The material first ignited also remains inconclusive at the time of this report. The fire is believed to have begun in the kitchen area and spread to the attic.

**Room of Origin**

The fire originated within the kitchen.

**CONCLUSION**

Based upon the fire scene examination and witness statements, it is the conclusion of this fire investigator the fire originated in the kitchen. This fire is ruled as undetermined.

**STATUS**

This investigation is closed.

*Michael Jacobs*