

FIRE INVESTIGATION REPORT



**Gloucester County Fire Marshal
212 County House Rd**

Chief County Fire Marshal - Shawn K.Layton

**Investigation# :
Date/Time : 07/04/2021 21:12
Location : 103 Lewis CT
Lead Investigator : Smith, Steve, E**



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212 County House Rd
Clarksboro, NJ 08020

Fire Investigation with Cover Page

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GC Fire Marshal Office

Incident# : 21-002210 **Investigation#** : **Police Call#** : 2021012088
Report By : Smith, Steve E
Incident Date : 07/04/2021 21:12:47 **Location** : 103 Lewis CT
CFS Code : Dwelling Fire **CSZ** : Franklinville, NJ 08322
Report Date : 07/07/2021 08:14:07 **Investigation Type** : Dwelling Fire

Investigator(s)

Name	Position	Assigned Date	Assigned By	Unit#	On Scene Date
Smith, Steve	Lead	07/05/2021 01:23:28	Noe, Jaymie	CFM6 - Fire Marshal	07/05/2021 01:53:45
Huston, George	Assistant	07/05/2021 01:36:06	Noe, Jaymie	CFM3 - Fire Marshal	07/08/2021 01:55:12
Hauss, Dan	Assistant	07/05/2021 01:23:28	Noe, Jaymie	CFM5 - Fire Marshal	07/05/2021 01:53:45
Layton, Shawn	Supervisor	07/05/2021 01:53:09	Noe, Jaymie	CFM1 - Fire Marshal	07/05/2021 01:53:13

Scene

Scene Information

Scene Secured? : Yes **Secured By** :
Scene Released : **Released To** : Injured
Property Value : \$0.00 **Property Loss** : \$100,000.00
Content Value : \$0.00 **Content Loss** : \$25,000.00
Authority to Enter : **Scene Notes** :

Weather Conditions

Visibility : Clear **Wind Direction** :
Temperature (F) : **Wind Speed** :
Relative Humidity : **Precipitation** :
Lightning : No **Elevation** :
Lat / Long : 39.589329000000 -75.009514000000

Agency Type

Fire Department
Law Enforcement

Agency

Franklin Township Bureau Of Fire Prevention
GC Sheriff

Agency Contact

Structure

Occupancy/Construction

Property Use : 1- or 2-family dwelling, detached, manufactured home, mobile home not in transit, duplex. **Construction Year** : **Stories** : **Length** :
Construction : Type V **Foundation Type** : Injured **Width** :
Exterior Covering : Vinyl **Roof Construction** : 100000
Floor Construction : Wood **Building Status** : 25000

Protection/Alarm/Security

Sprinklers? ☐ **Windows** ☐
Standpipes? ☐ **Doors** ☐
Alarm System? ☐ **Security Camera?** ☒



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Smoke Detectors? ☒

Others

Ring door bell

Conditions

Doors : Open

Windows : Broken

Remarks : Windows blown out of second floor still intact.

Utilities

Electric : Circuit Breaker

Water : On

Gas/Fuel : On

Telephone :

Bank	Amp Rating	Label	Status
Main			Fault

Vehicle

Mobile Property Involved	: None	VIN#	:	Stolen?	☐
Mobile Property Type	:	Model	:	Alarm System?	☐
Mobile Property Make	:	Year	:	No.of Keys	
Plate#	:	Odometer	:	Hidden Keys?	☐

Narrative

On Sunday, July 4, 2021 at 2112 hours, I S.Smith (CFM6) along with S.Layton (CFM1) G. Huston (CFM3) D. Hauss (CFM5) and J. Hughes (FI-43) was requested by the Malaga Fire Department Chief Anthony Baldosaro to perform an origin and cause investigation into a fire that occurred at 103 Lewis CT., Franklinville, NJ 08322. This house was a two story wood frame home with a full basement.

INTERVIEWS

Fire Investigator J. Hughes (FI-43) performed all the interviews.

Upon arrival, I talked with Chief Baldosaro the first arriving chief on scene reported that he had smoke coming from all sides of the home (A/B/C/D), and the two main windows missing from the second floor side A of the home. These windows were on the front lawn of the home. Chief Baldosaro stated he performed a 360 finding more windows missing from the second story of the home, as well as the basement windows from side C. Chief Baldosaro had no visible flames from the exterior of the home.

I first, interviewed Vince Maiaroto at the fire scene on 7/4. Mr. Maiaroto was at the home at the time of fire. He stated that he was over Richard Petriello's (Home Owner) home for a July 4th celebration party. Mr. Maiaroto stated before the fire everybody was outback of the home watching a fireworks display when he described an explosion has occurred. Mr. Maiaroto was hit in the back of his body with glass and debris from the home suffering no injuries. Mr. Maiaroto reported that Mr. Petriello entered the home for an unknown reason. Mr. Maiaroto followed where he found Mr. Petriello unconscious on the landing of the basement steps. Mr. Maiaroto rescued Mr. Petriello bringing him outside to safety. Mr. Maiaroto did state that he smelled natural gas when he entered the home after the explosion. Also Mr. Maiaroto reported that before he entered the home from the rear door side C he noticed that the basement windows were broken and he saw a glow that appeared to be flames in the basement.

I next, interviewed Mr. Jim Dagostino who is a family friend of the Petriello's. He stated he was over the home to celebrate the 4th of July. Mr. Dagostino was in the rear of yard when the explosion occurred. Mr. Dagostino did not attempt to enter the home with Mr. Petriello and Mr. Maiaroto. He stated that he helped start to evacuate family



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and friends from the backyard.

I then, interviewed Ms. Sythia Matousch, daughter of Mr. Richard Petriello and Mrs. Ruth Petriello. Ms. Matousch stated that her family was having their annual Fourth of July party. Ms. Matousch reported that she did not smell natural gas inside the home at any time before the explosion. Ms. Matousch stated that she was also in the rear of the house watching the fireworks display when she felt a rush of air on her back side then pelted with pieces of glass. Ms. Matousch did not suffer any injuries. After the explosion she proceeded to get her younger sister to safety.

I was not able to interview Mr. Petriello or Mrs. Petriello the night of the fire. Mr. Petriello was transported to Jefferson Washington township before his arrival.

INVESTIGATION

Deputy CFM S. Smith (CFM6) opened an origin and cause investigation with the assistance of all investigators using the scientific method of fire scene investigation. Deputy CFM D. Hauss (CFM5) gathered photographic evidence of the areas that sustained no fire, smoke or damage working to the area that sustained the heaviest fire and smoke damage. This led me to the C/D corner in the basement of home. This area had the most charring of the floor joist, and other contents in the basement. Also the water heater was located in this area. The water heater had extensive damage with burn patterns leading to the top of the unit.

ORIGIN AND CAUSE

While using the scientific method of fire scene examination along with the statements made by emergency responders; We found the origin of this fire at 103 Lewis Ct. Franklinville NJ 08322 to be located in the C/D side of the basement in the area of the water heater. The cause of this fire will be listed as "Undetermined." As a result of this investigation may change as additional evidence come forth.

At this time no further action will be taken by this office, this office reserves the right to legally obtain new information based on evidence discovered; and statements made or brought forward by this office, or any other office involved in this investigation

Completed By: S. Smith

Smith, Steve E, Lead Investigator

Shawn K. Layton
174010

Layton, Shawn K, Investigation Supervisor