



Ocean County Fire Marshal's Office (NJ)

INCIDENT REPORT

Official Law Enforcement Report - Unauthorized Dissemination is Prohibited

Incident Type: Fire / Accidental

Agency Incident ID:

BATS ID: 1076480



Incident Date/Time/Location

Status

Investigation Closed

Start Date/Time

5/12/2019 15:00 Sunday

Address

160 Inboard Avenue

City/State/Zip

Stafford, NJ

County

Ocean

Investigator Information

Name

Dennis M Allen

Phone

732-575-4060

Email

dallen@co.ocean.nj.us

Title

Fire Marshal

Badge Number

1948

Property Use or Target Information

Type

Residential

Subtype

1 (Single Family) or 2 Family Dwelling

Status

Occupied And Operating

Secondary Type

Residential

Secondary Subtype

1 (Single Family) or 2 Family Dwelling



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Scene Details

Area of Origin/Device Placement

Area of Origin

Function Areas

Area of Origin Subtype

Function areas, other

Fire Descriptors

Careless use or disposal of smoking materials

Miscellaneous Information

Sky Conditions

Overcast

Precipitation

Rain

Wind Speed/Direction

10 MPH / E

Temperature

68F

Precipitation Amount

1.00 Inches

Humidity

99%

Investigator Right of Entry

Consent - Verbal



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Mortgages

Additional Comments

No mortgage information.



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Insurance

Insurance Information

Insurance Company Name

AAA

Insurance Type

Homeowner

Insurance Holder

Insured's Name

Janice & Eddy Fagan

Other Number

Claim #1003-26-3287

Insurance Coverage

Insurance Company

Point of Contact

Scott Walker

Telephone Office

302-242-3633

Insurance Agent

Additional Comments

I was unable to get a policy number.



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Person/Organization Information

Juvenile

No

Address Information

Street Address

160 Inboard Avenue

City/State/Zip

Stafford, NJ

County

Ocean

Contact Information

Primary Phone

732-232-7039



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Name

FAGAN, JANICE

DOB

1/7/1934

Sex

F

Juvenile

No

Race

White

Ethnicity

Unknown

Age at time of Incident

85

Eye Color

Unknown

Hair Color

Gray/Partial Gray

Height

5' 3"

Weight

115

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Narrative(s)

Title

160 Inboard Avenue

Author

Dennis Allen

7325754060

dallen@co.ocean.nj.us

Description

Case 19-115

On Sunday May12,2019 at 15:34 PM the Stafford Fire company was dispatched to 160 Inboard Avenue for a working structure fire. The first arriving fire crews reported smoke coming from the front door. The fire crew entered the house and discovered fire in the center of the basement burning the ceiling. The fire crew extinguished the fire by utilizing an inch and three quarter hand line. A second fire crew conducted a search for two unaccounted dogs. One dog was located by the sliding glass door by the kitchen. The second dog was found under a pool table in the basement. Both dogs were taken to an emergency Veterinary clinic. The fire crews checked the house for any additional fire, but no fire was found. At 15:52 the Ocean County Fire Marshal's office was requested to respond to this location.

At 16:20 PM I Deputy Fire Marshal Dennis Allen arrived at 160 Inboard Avenue in Stafford Township and met with Fire Chief O'Neil and the Stafford Township Fire Official Heidi Michel, and was briefed on the fire company actions. I met with the home owners Janice and Eddy Fagan. They were asked if they were home at the time of the fire and they replied "No, that they were told about the fire from a family member." I asked Janice if they had home owner's insurance. She replied "yes Triple A but she wasn't sure about the policy number".

At 16:30 PM I started my scene examination along with photographing the scene. This house is a one story wood framed construction with vinyl siding with asphalt roofing shingles. I entered through the front door and noticed moderate smoke damage to the living room, Kitchen, Dining room. I then went down the stairs and entered the Basement. I noticed Fire, Smoke and Water damage to the ceiling, floor and wall closest to the "B" Division. I checked the Electrical Panel it is A Cutter Hammer. Breakers Number 19 labeled Basement Light and Number 22 labeled Office light were tripped. The Water Heater is an AO Smith Serial Number Ko5a164722 this Water heater was not involved with the fire. The Gas Boiler is a Well McLain I could not locate the serial number this boiler was not involved with the fire. We then observed the burn pattern on the wooden paneling by the meatal support column by the "B-C "division. We discovered a melted plastic trash can that was against the metal support column; this column has carpet wrapped around it. We noticed burn marks on the carpet above the melted trash can. At this time, we asked to talk Luke Scelzo who is the Grandson of the home owners Janice and Eddy Fagan who lives in the Basement. We asked Luke to come down to the Basement so he could give us a layout of the Basement. Luke was asked if he smokes in the



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Basement. Luke replied "no I don't smoke I only burn incense" We asked Luke were he burns the incense. Luke replied "I light it with a lighter and I stick it in the crack of the wall and the metal pole, and when I'm done I put it in water and put it in the garbage can". Luke pointed to the melted trash can. Luke was asked when was the last time he lit the incense. Luke replied "yesterday, but I always put it in water to make sure it's out". The incense Luke burns is a stick type approximately 10 inches long Jamaican Fruit sent.

Based on the burn patterns on the carpet that is on the metal support column, and the melted plastic trash can. Along with the statement given by Luke Scelzo this fire is considered accidental. The Origin of this fire is the melted plastic trash can that extended to the wooden paneling burning up to the exposed floor joists.

The cause of this fire is improper disposal of the burning incense igniting available combustibles. This opinion shall remain the same pending further physical or scientific evidence which is presented to this investigator that would alter the same.



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This section intentionally left blank

Fire Marshal - Allen, Dennis

7/9/2019

Date

Chief Fire Marshal - Mulligan, Daniel

2/24/20

Date