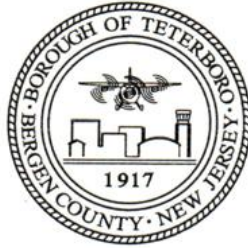


BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION
OFFICE OF THE FIRE OFFICIAL



TEL: 201-288-7205
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BOROUGH OF TETERBORO
250 HOLLISTER ROAD • TETERBORO, NEW JERSEY 07608

June 2, 2025

On Saturday May 30, 2025, at 15:03 hrs. the South Hackensack Police received a 9-1-1 call from Sean Kennedy 551-497-8874 reporting a fire in the rear of 7B 4th Ave. The South Hackensack Fire Department was dispatched at 15:04 hrs. Engine 403 was the first fire unit to arrive and found a 2-story wood frame residential duplex with a heavy fire condition in the rear of the structure. Hackensack Deputy Chief Derevyanik was the initial incident commander. The fire would escalate to a third alarm. The weather at the time of the fire was partly sunny 66 degrees 57% humidity with a west wind at 8 mph. Chief Derevyanik notified Fire Official Dressel of the fire. Fire Official Dressel requested Teterboro Fire Official Knobloch to conduct an origin and cause investigation.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREMISES

The subject structure is a 2-story duplex residential occupancy constructed of wood and masonry materials. The building is located on the south side of 4th Avenue with the front of the structure facing north. The exterior of the structure is covered with vinyl siding and the front of the structure is covered with a brick veneer. The roof is hip shaped and covered with asphalt shingles, the west side of the roof is covered with solar panels. The structure was built in 2005. 7A 4th Ave is located on the east side of the structure and 7B 4th Ave is located on the west side of the structure.



FIRE SCENE EXAMINATION

Exterior Examination

The front of the structure has smoke damage along the roof line. All windows were removed during fire fighting operations. Both apartment 7a and 7b front doors were unlocked and open at the time of the fire. The left side of the structure has heat and smoke damage to the soffit and roof line. 2nd floor windows were removed during firefighting operations. The rear of the structure has heat and flame damage to the left side of the structure from the deck area traveling upward. The right side of the structure has heat damage to the soffit and roof line.

Interior Examination

A systematic interior examination was conducted utilizing the scientific methodology as outlined in NFPA921 2024 Edition. Examination of the structure revealed smoke damage throughout the interior of the structure. Tracing the heat and smoke damage, from least to most severe, found that the most severe damage was noted on the rear deck of 7B 4th avenue. The examination of this area found heat and fire damage to the right rear side of the deck between the railing and the column.



Right rear side of the deck



Close up view of the right rear side of the deck



Area cleared of debris



Side view of the deck

UTILITY EXAMINATION

The electrical service is supplied to the structure via overhead wiring from PSE&G pole # 60484 to a Landis & Gyr watt meter PSE&G tag #000302071907b. There are no signs of damage or tampering to the weather head, meter pan or conduit. A Siemens electrical panel is in a basement closet under the stairs. Breaker's 11, 12, 24, 28, & 32 are in the tripped position. Breaker 11 is labeled kitchen wall outlet, breaker 12 is labeled 2nd floor bathroom, breaker 24 is labeled smoke detectors, breaker 28 is labeled rear bedroom and breaker 32 is labeled middle bedroom.



Landis & Gyr watt meter



Siemens electrical panel



Breakers 11,12,24,28,32 in the tripped position

INTERVIEW OF SEAN KENNEDY

This investigator interviewed Sean Kennedy (9-1-1 caller) 551-497-8874 who stated the following:

- He was at his parent's house at 38 Calicooneck Rd when he heard a loud crackling noise.
- He went into the back yard and saw a fire on the back deck of the 7B 4th Ave.
- He immediately called 9-1-1.

INTERVIEW OF ELIANA DOMINGUEZ

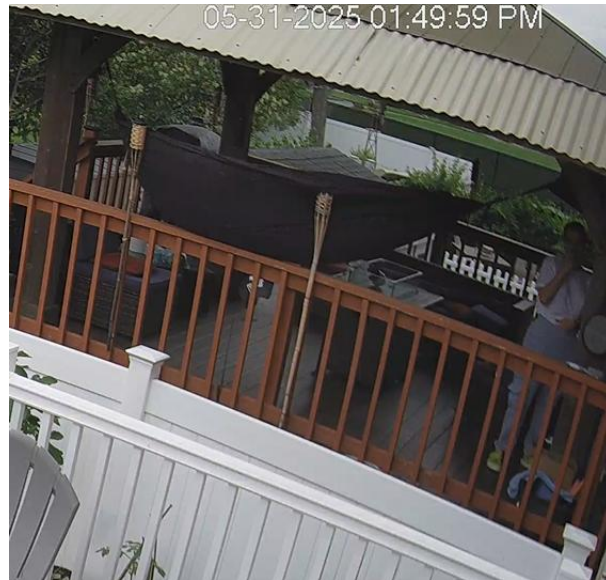
This investigator interviewed Eliana Dominguez (tenant of 7b 4th avenue) 201-456-1090 who stated the following:

- She has lived in the house for 4 years.
- They have not used the fire pit since last year.
- She stained the cabinets last month and threw the rags into the garbage.
- No one smokes in the house.
- She only uses candles in the bathroom.
- She keeps a broom, mop and cleaners on the right corner of the deck.
- She was the last person on the deck 10 minutes before the fire looking for the mop.
- When she was outside, she did not smell any smoke or see any smoke.
- She was upstairs cleaning when the dog alerted her to the fire.

SECURITY VIDEO REVIEW

This investigator reviewed a security camera video from the rear door of 7A 4th Avenue. Andre Huang (son of homeowner Yun Biao Huang) 646-327-5687 supplied the video. An outline of the video is as follows:

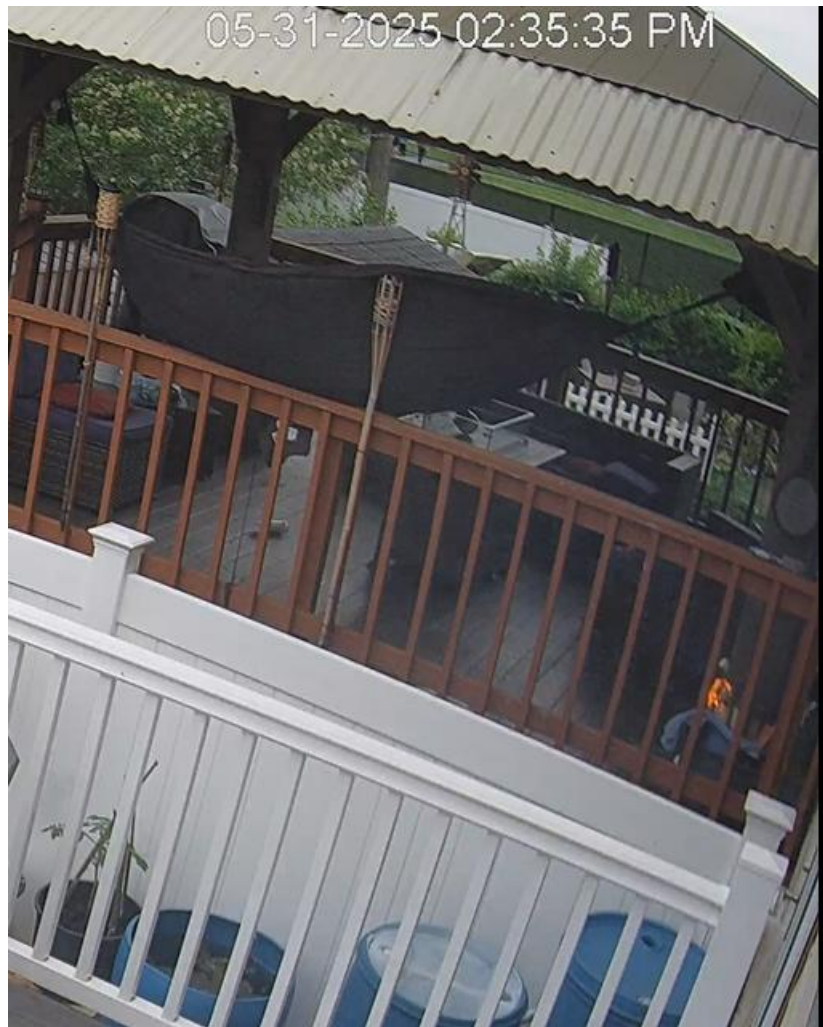
- 13:46 Eliana Dominguez is seen walking on the deck
- 13:48 Eliana Dominguez is seen smoking a cigarette on the deck
- 13:50 Eliana Dominguez is seen dropping a cigarette near a cardboard box on the right side of the deck
- 14:00 smoke is seen coming from a cardboard box next to the wood column on the right side of the deck
- 14:04 smoke is seen coming from the box and the box is starting to smolder
- 14:35 first sight of open flame on the box
- 14:41 smoke from the box intensifies
- 14:55 flames are seen extending to the wood column.
- 14:58 flames are seen intensifying and extending to the deck boards



Eliana Dominguez Smoking



Eliana Dominguez dropping the cigarette near the cardboard box



First sign of flame from the cardboard box

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS/OPINIONS/CONCLUSIONS

Based upon the results of the on-site examination, the fire pattern vector analysis, the interview of Sean Kennedy, Eliana Dominguez, the review of security footage from 7A 4th Ave and overall examination of the structure; my developed probable final hypothesis concludes the following:

The fire originated from the right side of the rear deck. The fire migrates up and outward from this general area, igniting a combustible cardboard box and communicating to the deck and structure.

The inappropriate disposal of smoking materials by Mrs. Dominguez is the cause of the fire occurrence.

If additional information or documentation becomes known to TETERBORO FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU reserves the right to amend and/or supplement this opinion report

Submitted,

Robert Knobloch NAFI-CFI. IAAI-FIT, NJ-CFI

Fire Official

Teterboro Fire Prevention Bureau