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Report #: 220050729 Montgomery County Fire Marshal

12:16

Start Date: 11/16/2022 08:41

End Date:

Summary: BUILDING FIRE WITH EXPLOSION

Report Type: 0911 ARSON- OCCUPIED STRUCTURE Case Status: 220050729 05 - Exception - Death Of Offender

Incident Location

Address: 826 QUINCE ORCHARD BLV

Intersection:

Report Date: 02/22/2023

GAITHERSBURG, MD 20878

Response Area: 6P2 - Reporting Area: 554 - Lat: 39.1395205 - Long: -77.228846

Addl. Info:

Incident Offenses

#1 Original Report 2006 ARSON - RESIDENTIAL

Remarks:

Officers Involved

Assisting SEPARATED WADE CARON - GPD - 7818 - Original Report

Assisting POLICE OFFICER JOHN DUKE - GPD - 7781 - Original Report

Assisting SGT SHANE EASTMAN - GPD - 7821 - Original Report

Assisting SGT CHRISTOPHER JONES - GPD - 7805 - Original Report

Assisting SGT DANIEL MCCARTHY - GPD - 7809 - Original Report

Assisting SGT LESTER RICE - GPD - 7777 - Original Report

Assisting SGT RICO THOMPSON - GPD - 7824 - Original Report

Assisting SEPARATED PATRICK WORD - GPD - 7762 - Original Report

Assisting PO3 RICHARD CARTER - MCPD - 2425 - Original Report

Assisting CPL ALAN CAWOOD - MCPD - 1379 - Original Report

Assisting CAPTAIN JASON COKINOS - MCPD - 2346 - Original Report

Assisting PO3 WALTER CONOVER - MCPD - 1575 - Original Report

Assisting PO3 MICHAEL COWELL - MCPD - 2298 - Original Report

Assisting PO3 MEGAN EATON - MCPD - 9301 - Original Report

Assisting PO3 MELANIE ROMANO - MCPD - 9404 - Original Report

Assisting PO3 JEFFERY HEDGEPETH - MCPD - 9386 - Original Report

Assisting PO3 JENNIFER HOFFMANN - MCPD - 1151 - Original Report

Assisting PO3 GEORGE HYSON - MCPD - 2020 - Original Report

Assisting PO3 MICHAEL KANE - MCPD - 1382 - Original Report

Assisting CPL JOSEPH MARQUART - MCPD - 2329 - Original Report

Assisting PO3 THOMAS PYLES - MCPD - 36 - Original Report

Assisting SGT KEVIN REAM - MCPD - 2175 - Original Report

Assisting PO3 DAVID RICE - MCPD - 1366 - Original Report

Assisting CAPT ERIC STANCLIFF - MCPD - 1167 - Original Report

Assisting PO3 TODD UVARY - MCPD - 9428 - Original Report

Assisting PO3 MATTHEW WAGNER - MCPD - 2398 - Original Report

Assisting PO3 STUART WEST - MCPD - 1378 - Original Report

Assisting SEPARATED GARY ZALEWSKI - MCPD - 1453 - Original Report

Assisting PO3 BRIAN NAVE - MCPD - 2617 - Original Report

Assisting SGT BRANDON DAY - GPD - 7833 - Original Report

Assisting PO3 ANDREW MARTINEZ - MCPD - 2639 - Original Report

Assisting PO3 CHRISTOPHER MASSARI - MCPD - 2660 - Original Report

Date: 11/20/2023 15:18 of 21 Page: 2 Assisting CPL CHRISTOPHER LEACH - GPD - 7844 - Original Report Assisting PO3 ANDREW BYRD - MCPD - 2682 - Original Report Assisting PO3 ANDREW CURRAN - MCPD - 2667 - Original Report Assisting CPL JUSTIN COMPTON - GPD - 7849 - Original Report Assisting SGT EVAN MILANO - GPD - 7847 - Original Report Assisting PO3 ARICK JENNINGS - MCPD - 2707 - Original Report Assisting PO3 CHRISTINE LATIFOV - MCPD - 2814 - Original Report Assisting SGT DAVID HALL - MCPD - 2805 - Original Report Assisting CPL JOHN DAVIS - GPD - 7851 - Original Report Assisting POLICE OFFICER STUART JACKSON - GPD - 7852 - Original Report Assisting CAPTAIN ANDREW GETTIG - MCFM - 9198 - Original Report Assisting SGT MICHELLE KIRK - GPD - 7856 - Original Report Assisting CPL PETER LOIODICE - GPD - 7858 - Original Report Reporting CAPTAIN JAMES BISE - MCFM - 9200 - Original Report Approving CAPT ERIN WIRTH - MCFM - 9206 - Original Report Assisting POLICE OFFICER GUILLERMO SIMPSON - GPD - 7877 - Original Report Assisting PO3 KELLY COX - MCPD - 3119 - Original Report Assisting PO3 TED DALEY - MCPD - 3242 - Original Report Assisting POLICE OFFICER BROOKE VANDERFORD - GPD - 7873 - Original Report Assisting POLICE OFFICER RONALD KIKONYOGO - GPD - 7875 - Original Report Assisting POLICE OFFICER LEONEL DEL ORBE - GPD - 7886 - Original Report Assisting POLICE OFFICER MARK MOORMAN - GPD - 7881 - Original Report Assisting POLICE OFFICER NATHAN ENGLE - GPD - 7880 - Original Report Assisting POLICE OFFICER JONATHAN PLACIDO - GPD - 7879 - Original Report Assisting POLICE OFFICER KELVIN COLON GERENA - GPD - 7891 - Original Report Assisting POLICE OFFICER ARACELI PEREZ - GPD - 7885 - Original Report Assisting POLICE OFFICER CODY SMORSE - GPD - 7888 - Original Report Assisting POLICE OFFICER NOAH WHELAN - GPD - 7895 - Original Report Assisting POLICE OFFICER MIKE ESPEJO BATISTA - GPD - 7894 - Original Report Assisting PO JAKE WHEATLEY - GPD - 7899 - Original Report Supplemental Reporting CAPTAIN JAMES BISE - MCFM - 9200 - Supp. #2 Approving CAPTAIN TIMOTHY FERGUSON - MCFM - 9188 - Supp. #2 Supplemental Reporting CAPTAIN JAMES BISE - MCFM - 9200 - Supp. #3 Approving CAPTAIN TIMOTHY FERGUSON - MCFM - 9188 - Supp. #3 **Incident People** *101218533* Victim DOB: **Original Report** 824 QUINCE ORCHARD BLV Address: (Date of Info: 03/01/2023) GAITHERSBURG, 20878 (Phone Date of Info: 03/01/2023) Cell Phone: *101218534* Victim DOB: **Original Report** Age: 824 QUINCE ORCHARD BLV (Date of Info: 03/01/2023) Address: GAITHERSBURG, 20878 (Phone Date of Info: 03/01/2023) Cell Phone:

101218535

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Victim *101218535*

DOB: Age: Original Report

Address: 824 QUINCE ORCHARD BLV (Date of Info: 03/01/2023)

GAITHERSBURG, 20878

Cell Phone: (Phone Date of Info: 03/01/2023)

Victim *100952647*

DOB: Age: Original Report 100952647

Address: 824 QUINCE ORCHARD BLV (Date of Info: 03/01/2023)

GAITHERSBURG, 20878

Business Phone: (Phone Date of Info: 10/11/2019)
Cell Phone: (Phone Date of Info: 03/01/2023)

 Victim
 101218537

 DOB:
 Age:
 Original Report
 101218537

Address: 824 QUINCE ORCHARD BLV (Date of Info: 03/01/2023)

GAITHERSBURG, 20878

Cell Phone: (Phone Date of Info: 03/01/2023)

 Victim
 100015342

 DOB:
 Age:
 Original Report

Address: 826 QUINCE ORCHARD BLV (Date of Info: 03/01/2023)

GAITHERSBURG, 20878

Cell Phone: (Phone Date of Info: 03/01/2023)

(Date of Info: 09/23/2009)

Distinguishing Features:

Victim *101218540*
U DOB: Age: Original Report 101218540

Address: 826 OUINCE ORCHARD BLV (Date of Info: 03/01/2023)

GAITHERSBURG, 20878

Cell Phone: (Phone Date of Info: 03/01/2023)

 Victim
 100404893

 DOB:
 Age:

 Original Report
 100404893

Address: 826 QUINCE ORCHARD BLV APT (Date of Info: 09/03/2013)

GAITHERSBURG, MD 20878

Business Phone: (Phone Date of Info: 05/30/2014)
Cell Phone: (Phone Date of Info: 09/03/2013)

(Date of Info: 09/13/2013)

Victim *101218544*

DOB: Age: Original Report 101218544

Address: 826 QUINCE ORCHARD BLV (Date of Info: 03/01/2023)

GAITHERSBURG, 20878

Cell Phone: Phone Date of Info: 03/01/2023)

CODE MCPD Incident Report - 220050729 Date: 11/20/2023 15:18 of 21 Page: 4 *101218546* Victim DOB: Age: Original Report (Date of Info: 03/01/2023) Address: 826 QUINCE ORCHARD BLV GAITHERSBURG, 20878 Cell Phone: *100027778Victim DOB: Age: **Original Report** (Date of Info: 02/03/2019) Address: 828 QUINCE ORCHARD BLV APT GAITHERSBURG, MD 20878 Cell Phone: (Phone Date of Info: 01/23/2020) Cell Phone: (Phone Date of Info: 02/03/2019) (Date of Info: 01/31/2020) Distinguishing Features: *100888036* Victim DOB: Age: Original Report Address: 828 QUINCE ORCHARD BLV T2 (Date of Info: 03/01/2023) GAITHERSBURG, 20878 (Phone Date of Info: 12/12/2018) Cell Phone: *101218552* Victim DOB: **Original Report** Age: Address: 828 QUINCE ORCHARD BLV (Date of Info: 03/01/2023) GAITHERSBURG, 20878 (Phone Date of Info: 03/01/2023) Cell Phone: 01218553* Victim DOB: Age: Original Report 828 QUINCE ORCHARD BLV (Date of Info: 03/01/2023) Address: GAITHERSBURG, 20878 (Phone Date of Info: 03/01/2023) Cell Phone: *10041400 Victim DOB: Age: Original Report 100414001 828 QUINCE ORCHARD BLV APT (Date of Info: 10/29/2020) Address: GAITHERSBURG, MD 20878 (Phone Date of Info: 09/22/2020) Cell Phone: (Phone Date of Info: 09/22/2020) Cell Phone: Cell Phone: (Phone Date of Info: 06/28/2017) (Date of Info: 09/21/2020) Distinguishing Features:

101218554 Victim **Original Report** Age:

828 QUINCE ORCHARD BLV Address: (Date of Info: 03/01/2023)

GAITHERSBURG, 20878

(Phone Date of Info: 03/01/2023) Cell Phone:

Original Report

Original Report

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Victim DOB: *101218555*

Address:

Sex: M

780 QUINCE ORCHARD BLV (Date of Info: 03/01/2023)

Age:

Age:

GAITHERSBURG, 20878

Business Phone: (Phone Date of Info: 03/01/2023)

(Emp. Date of Info: 03/01/2023) Employment:

Suspect JUAN PABLO MARSHALL QUIZON DOB:

101190893

(Date of Info: 11/16/2022) Address:

DERWOOD, 20855

Race: W

(Phone Date of Info: 11/16/2022) Cell Phone:

Hgt: 511, Wgt: 129, Brown Eyes, Black Hair, Medium - Collar Length Hair, Beard (Date of Info: 11/16/2022)

Incident Property

Total Value: \$2,350,000

Structure - Multiple Occupancy

110735376

Burned

110735376

Value: \$2,000,000

Description: BUILDING STRUCTURE

Owner:

- Victim - Original Report

Structure - Other

10735377* 110735377

Burned

Value: \$350,000

Description: CONTENTS

Owner:

Victim - Original Report

Associated LEA Cases

LEA Case Number:

LEA Case Summary:

220050729

MCFM, Review Status: Review, Case Status: Exception - Death Of Offender 04/19/2023,

Workgroup: FIRE

Assigned To: No Officer Assigned

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Incident Narrative

Reporting CAPTAIN JAMES BISE - MCFM, ID # 9200

1 02/22/2023

12:16

INCIDENT BACKGROUND:

On 11/16/2022 at approximately 0840 hrs. Montgomery County Emergency Communications received numerous calls regarding a building fire with an explosion. Montgomery County Fire and Rescue along with Montgomery County Police responded to 826 Quince Orchard Boulevard, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20878. Paramedic Engine 708 arrived on the scene of a 3-story garden apartment building, with a partial collapse, and heavy fire from side C. The Hazmat assignment was dispatched along with the Technical Rescue Team. The on-duty Fire and Explosive investigators responded as well. The fire resulted in damage to several buildings, including a collapse of 826 Quince Orchard Boulevard. The fire resulted in a preliminary estimate of 2 million in structure damages, two hundred and fifty thousand in contents, and one hundred thousand to vehicles, and area surrounding the damaged buildings. There were 13 injured civilians, and one fatality. The scene examination lasted from Wednesday 11/16/2022 to Friday 11/18/2022.

For this incident CR#220050729 and CR#220050637 are both used.

NARRATIVE:

On Wednesday, November 16, 2022, at approximately 8:45 am, MCFRS Fire & Explosives Investigator Captain T. Ferguson responded to the referenced address to assist with the report of a building explosion. Once on scene, Captain Ferguson was briefed by Captain J. Bise, the on-duty fire investigator, on events and actions at that time. Bise advised that he and Captain E. Wirth arrived to find a building explosion with active fire conditions.

Fire suppression activities were still ongoing, and efforts were underway to account for the occupants of the respective buildings. Additional fire and explosives investigators either responded or were consulted to assist. Captain Ferguson assumed the FEI investigative branch supervisor role based on the briefing.

Initial reports were of the following:

- 12 injured
- Ten (10) were sent to area hospitals for evaluation
- Two (2) critical injuries
- Working on accounting for the occupants

Other initial reports consisted of one of the passersby and crew reporting smelling natural gas in the area. These statements could not be substantiated. What was confirmed was that crews working in the area made rescues of occupants jumping from the rear of the building.

Investigative efforts were focused on fire and rescue activities, incident stabilization, and accounting for victims/occupants. Four (4) buildings were affected. There were six (6) units per building. There were approximately 50 people affected. The most affected building was 826. The associated building numbered 824, 828, and 830. These buildings represented a cluster in the Potomac Oaks Apartments and Condominium complex.

Captain Ferguson worked with Captain Bise, ATF SEEO M. Eldredge and SA A. St. John in the command post and at the debris pile to coordinate efforts and plan for processing the scene. Eldredge and St. John provided technical assistance for this large-scale event. The Montgomery County Police (MCPD) Major Crimes Section, MCFRS command staff, the Gaithersburg City Police (GCP) command staff, Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service (MCFRS) command staff, the Alcohol Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Baltimore Field Division, emergency management, and other public

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entities were all consulted and apprised of the operation.

Captain Ferguson coordinated FEI investigative efforts and resources throughout the day and evening. Investigators were able to account for all but one of the occupants in building #826. Through investigative measures, investigators learned that the sole outstanding occupant of building 826's vehicle was parked in front of the apartment building. At approximately 5 pm, search warrants were issued for the vehicle, a 2009 Silver Ford F-150 with Maryland registration belonging to JUAN QUIZON, and his residence at 826 Quince Orchard Boulevard in #T102. Additionally, a search warrant was issued for his mother's listed residence at , Rockville, Maryland, 20855.

Due to the nature of this explosive and fire event, bomb technicians, Captain Gettig and Lieutenant Olin executed the search warrant on the vehicle. A short time after gaining access to the vehicle, the bomb technicians advised they had found a handwritten letter inside the vehicle referencing the outstanding individual harming himself and the fire. Beyond the letter, no other items of evidentiary value were noted in the vehicle search.

Once the search of the vehicle was complete, operations were terminated for the day by the on-scene commander.

On November 17, 2022, Captain Ferguson and throughout this investigation, Captain Ferguson continued to serve as the FEI branch supervisor. The day began with a daily brief of objectives for investigators, safety briefs and concerns, and coordination for investigators, partners – state, local and federal, and command staff. As investigators continued to work through the debris field/pile for the outstanding resident, coordination efforts with the Montgomery County Police, Gaithersburg City Police Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and MCFRS Special Operations Technical Rescue Team also continued.

At approximately 2 pm, Captain Bise advised Captain Ferguson that a victim was located in the debris pile of 826 Quince Orchard Boulevard. The Montgomery County, Police Major Crimes, was notified of the findings and assumed the lead investigative entity as this event was now a death investigation. MCFRS command staff was also informed of the findings through the chain of command. Worked ceased to document the scene and the findings, accordingly. SEEO Eldredge and St. John, as technical advisors, offered their ATF's laboratory services to process evidence.

After documenting the scene, Montgomery County Fire and Rescue along with the trackhoe operator worked to remove the victim safely and carefully from the layers of debris. The OCME investigator, requested to the scene by MCPD detectives, secured the victim's remains. After the removal of the victim, investigators continued to process the scene. Operations ceased at nightfall. Later that evening, Captains Ferguson and Bise briefed the MCFRS, MCPD, and GCPD command staff and investigative findings. With MCPD as the lead investigative agency, MCFRS FEI now supported the death investigation efforts.

On Friday, November 18, 2022, Captain Ferguson again began the day by assuming the FEI branch supervisor role. The morning started with a briefing identifying the objectives for the day, and coordination. Investigators worked to process the scene for the origin and cause of the fire. Investigators again documented the scene and located items of evidentiary value. Working with MCPD detectives, these items were collected and secured for analysis.

At approximately 2 pm, Captain Ferguson concluded the day with an out brief to the remaining MCFRS, MCPD, and GPCD command staff. The remaining FEI personnel were also briefed, and the origin and cause efforts were terminated.

On Saturday, November 19, 2022, at approximately 9:30 am, Captain Ferguson accompanied MCFRS Fire Chief S. Goldstein and a GCPD command staff member to an early morning meeting with the Potomac Oaks Condominium

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complex representatives to officially return the property to their custody. All fire department origin and cause investigative efforts were formally completed then.

After the event, Captain Ferguson coordinated with ATF SA St. John and Supervisory SA Anderson to move some of the evidence to the ATF laboratory for analysis.

***ATF submissions, documents, forms, and handwritten notes added to the file. ***

The following is from Lt. Olin:

Lt. Olin made contact with the Washington Gas management delegation that had arrived on scene. Ben Hendrickson, Field Operations Manager, was on scene and was the point of contact for this incident. Washington Gas crews located the gas valves in the street along the curb and used them to control the gas to the structure. As the incident allowed, gas crews identified the path of the gas line to the building and began excavating adjacent to Quince Orchard Blvd, in the area of the sidewalk to expose the gas line. The gas line was located, cut and capped. Due to concerns of the structural stability of building 826, no pressure testing was done to the pipe leading from capped end to the meter in the terrace level laundry room of 826. In the days following the incident, Washington Gas provided investigators with hourly consumption data for the meter in building 826. The data capture began at 1300 hours on November 15, 2022, to 1200 hours on the day of the incident. There was no spike in usage until after the incident when gas would have been flowing from the damaged piping.

Lt. Olin and A. St. John (ATF) made contact with Derrick Baskerville, one of the Diamond Farm Condo maintenance workers. Baskerville provided Lt. Olin and St. John with an overview of the mechanical systems in place at Diamond Farm. Baskerville indicated the natural gas service entered building 826 in the front of the building. The gas meter was housed in a closet in the laundry room. The distribution piping from the consumer side of the meter serviced buildings 824, 826, 828 and 830. Baskerville showed the I/O's an exemplar building at 834 Quince Orchard Blvd. The exemplar building had the meter moved from the laundry room closet to the exterior at an unknown earlier date. The laundry room of 834 was to the left of the main entry door, just as the laundry room was in building 826. Baskerville further advised that the only appliances in the buildings were two gas dryers in the common laundry rooms and a gas range in each of the apartments. The heat was supplied by a community wide hot water system in which hot water is produced at two heating plants and pumped to the surrounding buildings and distributed to individual furnaces in each apartment (hot water forced air system).

Lt. Olin made contact with construction workers working for M&M Welding and Fabricating. The crew was working on side "C" of 826 Quince Orchard Blvd. and witnessed the explosion. Joey Kline, one of the workers provided the writer with 6 videos of the scene that he took immediately after the blast and the rescue they performed. Capt. Gettig captured statements and contact information from the crew.

On November 17, 2022, Lt. Olin operated as a spotter in a tower bucket and assisted with directing the trackhoe operator during the debris removal process. After alleviating a collapse hazard on side "C" of the building, the trackhoe repositioned on side "A" of 826. Lt. Olin observed the deployment of a human remains K-9 from the doorway of apartment 201 in building 828. The dog did not alert. The tower ladder was used to deploy the human remains K-9 to the debris pile of 826. The K-9 alerted on the pile approximately 10' in from the door of apartment 102. The trackhoe layered through the debris removing the collapsed concrete floor "T's" of the second floor and exposing items that would have been in apartment 102 where the blast originated. The trackhoe delicately removed debris and sifted the debris on the ground where other FEI personnel scanned it for evidence. In the process of exposing the floor of apartment 102 a cell phone was located. The phone was secured and submitted to evidence. Three gas ranges were recovered and placed in

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front of building 826. The first two were from the second-floor apartments (826, apt 202 and 828, apt 201). The third range was from 826 apt 102. The range was mangled, and a stock pot was pinched on the cooktop. The ranges all had gas pipe and flexible corrugated tubing attached. Some of the rigid black gas pipe broke as the ranges were being removed. The pipe was placed next to the ranges for later examination. At approximately 1500 hours, with approximately ½ of the floor of apartment 102 (front half) exposed, the trackhoe removed the charred remains of a body. The body was only visible in the bucket after the trackhoe pulled a scoop of debris from the apartment floor. The body was located approximately in the middle of the apartment (Quadrant "E"). The trackhoe operator placed the bucket on the sidewalk leading to building 826 and all operation ceased. Major crimes detectives were on scene and responded to the front of 826. Crime scene technicians responded to document the body recovery. Forensic Investigator Fallin responded from the Medical Examiner's Office and initiated his investigation which culminated with the body being placed in body bag and removed from the scene by a transport company. The operations ended for the evening.

On November 18, 2022, operation began with the focus on clearing the back half of the of apartment 102. Again, Lt. Olin was observing and guiding the operation from the tower bucket. The trackhoe repositioned to the rear of the building. The trackhoe started by removing debris from apartment 202 and the collapsed concrete T's of apartment 202's floor. The trackhoe began systematically removing debris from the floor of 102. The trackhoe removed a scoop of debris from quadrant "C" and an odor of gasoline could be smelled from the tower bucket. The debris was spread on side "Charlie" of the building. Lt. Baker secured a large piece of carpet for evidence collection. As additional scoops of debris were removed the odor of gasoline could be smelled. A scoop of debris taken about 5 - 10' from where the body was recovered, toward the "BC" corner, contained the remains of a shotgun. The debris was sifted on side "C" and Lt. Baker secure the weapon. When the scoop containing the gun was removed a red gas can was uncovered. The can was secured in subsequent scoops. Lt. Baker secured the can as evidence. The final scoops of debris to be removed came from the "Bravo" quadrant. Those scoops contained carpet and other debris and again there was odor of gasoline present.

On November 29, 2022, the writer was contacted by Sergeant Mark Poole, MCPD gun unit. Sgt. Poole advised the following: He wanted to provide FEI a heads-up that there may be guns in the debris. He had been notified of two reports for lost property of firearms. One is from 826 and the other is from 828. The case numbers for those cases are 220051734 and 220052313. Both parties have reported their firearms lost/destroyed by the fire. One handgun was in a fireproof safe, but the shotgun was under the bed. There is no indication whether the other gun was in a safe. Lt. Olin provided Sgt. Poole with the make and serial number of the shotgun that FEI recovered. The gun was identified as a Turkey Armelegant shotgun bearing serial number . Sgt. Poole indicated one of his officers would research the gun.

Participating Investigators

The following investigators participated in the scene examination in an effort to determine the origin and cause of this fire incident:

Montgomery County Fire and Explosive Investigations Unit (FEI):

- 1) Captain T. Ferguson (FM710) #9188 Investigative Branch Leader / Liaison
- 2) Captain J. Bise (FM730) #9200 Assistant Branch Leader / Operations
- 3) Captain A. Gettig (FM720) #9198 Interviews / Explosives
- 4) Captain E. Wirth (FM740) #9206 Interviews / Intelligence / Research
- 5) Lieutenant W. Olin (FM721) #9191 Operations / Technical Assistance
- 6) Lieutenant J. Hade (FM722) #9207 Interviews / Intelligence / Research
- 7) Lieutenant C. Moe (FM711) #9201 ADCT / Intelligence / Warrants
- 8) Lieutenant A. Veith (FM712) #9209- Intelligence / Warrants

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- 9) Master Firefighter P. Wolowicz (FM719) Evidence Technician
- 10) Lieutenant P. Baker arrived (FM731) #9205 Evidence (Thursday, November 17, 2023)

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATFE):

- 11) Senior Explosives Enforcement Officer/Bomb Technician M. Eldredge
- 12) Special Agent A. St. John
- 13) Supervisory Special Agent (Arson & Explosives, Group I) Supervisor C. Anderson Consulted



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Incident Narrative

Supplemental Reporting CAPTAIN JAMES BISE - MCFM, ID # 9200 2 04/10/2023 20:49

INTERVIEWS AND STATEMENTS CONDUCTED BY INVESTIGATORS:

Interviews and victim location were led by Capt. Wirth in conjunction with Gaithersburg City PD and Montgomery County PD.

The following is from Lt. Hade (#9207):

*Hade arrived on scene with the initial dispatch. Took photos of side C and then assisted M731 with loading of patient from Side C. Conducted initial interview of patient, until he was transported to Suburban Hospital (see his info below).

Occupant Information for building 824:

Apt.

- 3 occupants, all accounted for.
- was not home at the time of the incident, but his mother was:
- was home and looking out of the patio door towards Side C of 826. Stated that she saw a "flash of lightning on the ground" just prior to the explosion. No injuries reported. Isabel did not speak English and translation was provided by
- Coincidentally, there is no known relation between this and and from building 830, apt. mentioned below.

Apt.

• ¿ Lives alone, home at time of explosion, no injuries reported.

Apt.

- •
- Home alone, sitting on the couch when he "heard loud boom." Stated that he did not smell gas.
- His fiancé, was not home at time of incident.

Apt.

- Home at time of incident, laying in bed sleeping, awakened by shockwave, no injuries reported.
- Husband was not at home at the time of incident. Building 826

Apt.

, not home at time of incident, her and other 3 residents all accounted for.

Apt.

). Was in his apartment at time of incident, floor collapsed, and he fell into apartment below, where he made his escape from the balcony. He was found by M731 on the lawn on Side C and transported to Suburban Hospital.

• His wife, was not home at the time of incident, but contact was made later.

(number given to Hade

by unknown if it is correct). Building 828

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• Hade located this family standing near the school across Q.O. The family was covered in debris and the adult male was complaining of minor injuries. Hade escorted them to the clubhouse to be triaged. All were possibly transported.

• phone was left inside building, Phone number not obtained. Used Hade's phone to contact his father who was in the area.

's sister.

- child
- , child

Apt.

• While Hade was attending to the family from apt. he was approached by who stated she was from apt. and that she was home at the time. She stated that she had "a little cough" and wanted to be checked. She had no visible signs of injury or building debris. Hade directed her to the triage area. Later, when the scene wasn't as chaotic, Hade attempted to locate her for more information but was unsuccessful.

Occupant information for building 830:

| Apt. | |
|------|----------------------|
| • | Lives with roommate: |
| | |

• Both home at time of incident, reported minor injuries. Unknown transport status.

Apt.

• reported 5 occupants in apartment, all accounted for. reported that the family dog was still in the apartment.

Hade then went to ECC to obtain call history records for buildings regarding any odors of gas or reported gas leaks. The printouts were left in the Command Bus. There was a call for an odor of gas from building 826, apartment on 9/22/22. CAD history does not show a record of Washington Gas being contacted.

While at ECC, Hade spoke to FF Jimmy Donahue who stated he walked over to the scene on his break and noticed a white male with leg tattoos who was arguing with an older black male who could have been a building superintendent. Donahue left when MCPD approached the pair. The male with the tattoos is the same male Gettig interviewed.

Hade then accompanied Capt. Wirth to

The resident is Juan Quizon, his mother is

Chris Massari, his body-worn camera footage of the interviews is available.

to speak to the mother of an unaccounted-for resident.

Hade conducted the interview with Detective is available.

Per her phone history, she called 911 at 11:27am on 11/16/2022 to report her son missing. She was concerned about recent statements he has made about being depressed. She said that Juan was very close to his father who died 12 years ago and he has never gotten over it. was not aware that Juan has an apartment on Quince Orchard.

According to Juan:

^{*}End of occupant info*

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|---|--|
| Has always lived at home with her and his brother, Drives a Ford F-150. | |
| • Has a hoarding disorder. Neighbors recently called to report hoarding condithe clutter to be disposed of causing Juan major stress. | itions, Montgomery County officials ordered |
| Collected mainly books, scrap metal, and office supplies. Has one friend, who received a cryptic email from Juan on the same something to the effect of "you've been a good friend." | morning as the incident. The email said |
| • Has been removing items from the dumpster the County officials were using was taking the items to a storage facility. does not know the location of | of the storage facility. |
| • Does not see a mental health professional but does speak to the family doctor of his death. The family doctor is at at a second of the family doctor. | or who attended to Juan's father at the time spoke to him as recently as Friday. |
| • Does not take medicine, does not use recreational drugs, does not smoke, do | oes not drink. |
| Has no military history. Has a nickname of "Jumpy." | |
| Was attempting to unload the dumpster on the night prior to the incident. K When confronted Juan about it, he told her "you won't have to worry a Has no access to weapons or any other dangerous materials. Maybe a pocket | about me anymore." |
| Works odds and ends construction jobs. Works with contractor. | is a bath and kitchen |
| Due to Juan's hoarding, moved into an apartment at | has a phone number of |
| Friend . Met Juan 10 years ago through ball. Except for the email, she hasn't spoken to him | The state of the s |
| Hade and Massari then spoke to Juan's brother, | s a volunteer at |
| 5pm. Juan told he has a place to store his stuff but didn't specify where, | - |
| hurting himself. "on assembling temporary dance floors with son accounts according to his family. "owns a gun but says he has it secured | |
| | out thinks they haven't spoken in years. |
| The following is from Capt. Gettig: | |
| Interview with witnesses from M and M Welding and Fabricating who were the time of the explosion. | working on Side Charlie of 826 QO Blvd at |

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Arrived at 0600 to work on dual temperature heat pipes and started to work around 0700 hrs. Sometime around 0830, saw a "flash" coming from the 2nd floor (middle level of the 3 stories), heard a boom and felt a shockwave. He then saw a woman jump out of the second story and saw another man lying on the middle floor. then climbed a ladder and rescued the man. He did not smell anything the past 2 days since working on the site. According to 911, he called at 0839 hrs.

Arrived at 0600 to place a clamp on a water line which was leaking. He saw a flash from 826 near the 2nd floor (middle level) sometime around 0800. He then heard a boom and saw people in the middle apartment. He ran and got a ladder and put it up to the middle apartment floor and removed a male victim (Hispanic Male). The victim was holding his arm but could move to the ladder under his own power. He did not smell anything prior to the event.

Arrived at 0600. He heard a blast behind him. Did not smell anything prior 2 days. He saw no one seen around the building he would deem suspicious. He saw flames in the middle level apartment.

Interview of victim from 826 QO Blvd, Apt. T1

Asleep and heard a loud boom. Glass blew in and heard his wife screaming. He then grabbed baby and wife and baby stuff and left out the front (back was full of fire). Wife and baby sustained minor injuries and smoke inhalation and were smelled gas weeks ago and called 911 (maybe around August or transported to the hospital via ambulance. September). Same time there was construction going on in the apt. above him. Believes it was not being done by licensed contractors. FD arrived and said the gas was coming from 's apartment and they turned the stove's gas line off. Washington Gas came and could not find a leak. Maintenance said there was nothing more they could do. No additional problems since he has lived in the building since May-June. Mother-in-law owns the condo his wife: is former Airborne and , step-daughter: and added he remembers smelling cordite when he was spent time overseas in Iraq. Second phone call with exiting the apartment after the explosion. stated he had security cameras in his vehicle and it may have footage of the incident if the cameras were "shook" enough to turn on. Officer Wagner with MCP arrived on the scene and was who was yelling at a maintenance man stating, "this was all your fault". Ofc. Wagner pulled the side and calmed him down. told him this happened because of a gas leak. Wagner obtained the vehicle and recorded it through ECC. Wagner observed body armor, rifle plates, and a registration number belonging to s vehicle. go-bag in the back seat of stated to Wagner he was a volunteer FF at MCFRS St. 17. Gettig obtained this info from Wagner over the phone. Wagner had BWCS footage of the incident and was tagging it to be viewed later.

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The following interview was conducted by Capt. Wirth (#9206):

She was in bed on the bottom level awake. She opened the door and smelled something burning but had no smoke or haze. She stated the smoke detector was not going off. She then heard a big boom, jumped out of bed and left. She went up the front steps and out the front of the building. She stated no fire was visible, and no odor of gas. She went to bed at 1 a.m. that morning but could not sleep. She started smelling something burning about 15 minutes prior to the explosion. She lives alone with no pets and is the owner of the apartment. Her insurance is State Farm.

She took the garbage out and saw men working on water leak. She stated the hole was all dug up. As she started to go back inside the building, the explosion occurred.

The following is from Lt. Baker (#9205):

Summary of on scene activities at 826 Quince Orchard Blvd. November 17th, 2022, 0730 -0900:

Lt. Baker arrived to the site and received a briefing from Capt. Ferguson and Capt. Bise. While assessing the exterior of the affected buildings, was alerted to items found in the parking lot (backpack, passport, and other documents) belonging to Juan Quizon. The items were collected with assistance from Master Firefighter Wolowicz. Lt. Baker left the scene after the items were collected.

November 18th, 0900-1500:

Lt. Baker arrived and monitored the scene clearing activities on Side C of the building. During this activity, Lt. Baker examined the fire debris as it was removed by heavy machinery. Lieutenant Olin and Captain Bise monitored from an aerial position and alerted Lt. Baker of items of relevance to the fire event.

During this activity, Lt. Baker found the remains of a pump action shotgun. The shotgun had sustained thermal damage causing mass loss to the wooden components (Comb, Grip, and Forearm) and warping to the metal components of the magazine and barrel. MCPD Major Crimes were alerted to the discovery and CSU personnel arrived to collect the item. Lt. Baker x-rayed the remains to check ammunition within the shotgun. The shogun was cleared.

The melted remains of a small red plastic container were recovered from the fire debris. The item was recognizable as a small 1–2-gallon gasoline container with liquid still inside the container. The item was collected as evidence.

Several sections of carpet were removed from the structure and the strong odor of ignitable liquid was present.

Approximately 5 sections of carpet were set aside for examination. Lt. Baker could observe circular shaped patterns in the carpet and straight-line burn areas indicating ignitable liquid pour and trailers. An ignitable liquid detection canine was deployed.

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Samples were collected from areas of carpet where canine alerted.

Lt. Baker left the scene. Lt. Baker assisted Master Firefighter Wolowicz with submitting the collected evidence into the The following is from Lt. Veith (#9209): She works at the She met a lady at the front door of after hearing the event. The lady handed her a baby and ran back inside of the building. The same lady exited a few minutes later with another child. The front of the building was still intact with fire coming from the left side of the building. shows that the blast appears to occur at 08:38:37. Video obtained from The following is from Lt. Moe (#9201): Heard an explosion and went to the terrace level to get people out. Went in to rescue 1 child and several adults. The following is from Master Firefighter Jimmy Donahue from MCFRS: On November 16th, 2022, I was assigned to the Montgomery County Emergency Communications Center. While on my PT break, I was talking to a call taker and alerted to the building explosion near the communications center. Being on my break, also knowing I could get there first in my POV, I left the communications center for the explosion. I parked my POV on Quince Orchard Blvd across from . Approaching the building I could see lots of charcoal colored smoke coming out of both sides. I saw more people on the Alpha side, so that's where I went. I approached side A and scanned for people. Most of the high volume of fire was on top or in the middle of the building. The side Alpha wall had collapsed and you could see into the apartments, but I saw no immediate rescues. I noticed that

I approached side A and scanned for people. Most of the high volume of fire was on top or in the middle of the building. The side Alpha wall had collapsed and you could see into the apartments, but I saw no immediate rescues. I noticed that people were coming out of what looked like a hole but ended up being the entrance to 826. There were maybe 3-5 people around the front, but 3 for sure. I only remember what two of them looked like. There was a Hispanic male in approximately late 20's to early 30's in a yellow shirt. He was looking to help. I found an African American female approximately in her 40's at the threshold to the entrance of 826 sitting on some rubble with no shoes. I asked her to put her arms around my neck, and then I carried her to the sidewalk, where I told the guy in the yellow shirt to take her across the street to the grass. Seeing that there were no obvious rescues up front, I went to the Delta exposure, which was collapsed in the A/D quadrants, and entered the stairwell as it was tenable and still seemingly intact. I tried pulling the fire alarm, and it didn't move or alarm. I went to search the stairwell and knock on doors. Smoke was banked down on the third floor, so I did not go up there. I banged on doors and listened for any noises in the apartments, and it was silent.

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At this point I heard Company 8 pull up and went outside and met Captain Escolero from AT708. I advised him that I didn't see any immediate rescues, and that the Delta exposure still needed to be searched. I then went to AT708 and threw a 28ft ladder to the top floor of the Delta exposure. I heard from someone's portable radio that there was a lady and her baby on a second-floor balcony on the Charlie side. I ran to the Charlie side to recon and possibly put eyes on any potential rescues. There were no obvious rescues, but there were lots of people standing around. I returned to side alpha. I helped E731 flake out a bundle pack to enter the delta exposure. I went to AT708 and grabbed another 28' ladder. Ret. Capt. Ty Stottlemyer in civilian clothes helped me throw the ladder to the third floor of the Delta 1 Exposure. I then grabbed a 24-foot ladder from E729 and threw it to the other third floor window of the Delta exposure.

At this point SA700 Capt. Neal advised me that I needed some PPE and I disengaged. I saw my regularly assigned crew from E729 pull a 2.5" hose line to the Bravo exposure. I talked to them briefly. While that was happening, a light skinned white or Hispanic man in his thirties with tattoos on his calves was yelling at an older African American man. The subject of the conversation was something about putting his family in danger. An MCPD officer was called over to assist. Then I got a call from my supervisor Lt. Amy Dant to return to Communications. I walked to my POV and returned to communications.



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Incident Narrative

Supplemental Reporting CAPTAIN JAMES BISE - MCFM, ID # 9200 3 04/10/2023 20:56

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION:

For 824, 826, & 828 Quince Orchard Boulevard

1. Year Built: 1967

2. Type of Structure: residential condominium

3. Neighborhood: Potomac Oaks Condominiums

4. Foundation: concrete

5. Level(s): 3

6. Exterior Material: brick

7. Roof Type and Construction: asphalt shingle

8. Interior Wall Construction: drywall

9. Interior Floor Construction: concrete slab

10. Room Descriptions: 2-bedroom and 1 bathroom

11. Points of Ingress/Egress

a. Doorway(s): 1 entrance door and 1 rear slider to patio

b. Window(s): 3

12. Fire/Smoke Alarm Systems: unknown

13. Fire Suppression Systems: none

14. Miscellaneous Note(s): carpet flooring/wood flooring

UTILITIES:

The units in the building have natural gas for stoves, and forced air, and electric for central air.

SCENE EXAMINATION:

Exterior:

Starting from side A of 826 Quince Orchard Blvd, the structure was collapsed from the front, with part of the side D wall

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standing. Debris was in the parking lot, with items from apartment 102 located in the parking area, as well as the front door to 826 Quince Orchard Blvd. 828 Quince Orchard Blvd, located on side D, sustained major damage to the apartments sharing the fire wall with building 826. The roof of 828 was also extremely damaged by fire. The side B wall 826 shared with 824 Quince Orchard Blvd was bowed out presenting a collapse hazard. The roof over this portion of 826 was extremely damaged by fire along with the apartments. 824 Quince Orchard Blvd sustained smoke damage from the fire with nothing present on the alpha side of the structure.

From the exterior 824 was not affected by the explosion or fire. From an aerial view, where 826 and 824 join, the roof was damaged by fire in this area. On side C of 826, only the utility closet towers remained. The roof sustained severe mass loss and the interior of the building had collapsed. The patios to 102 and 202 were also damaged and no longer in place from the building explosion. To the rear of 826 debris was scattered through the common area behind the building. Side C of 828 showed significant damage to the inside of the structure, with an interior collapse, along with the roof sustaining mass loss. The exterior of 830 did not show any significant damage on side C.

Interior:

No interior exams were conducted in 826 and some of 824, and some of 828 Quince Orchard Boulevard due to instability of the buildings and safety of the investigators.

EVIDENCE:

All evidence was collected by Montgomery County law enforcement personnel. The fire evidence was submitted to the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms lab in Greenbelt, MD, as well as the Montgomery County Police lab located in Montgomery County, Maryland and consist of:

- Black Samsung S8 phone
- Gray color flooring fire debris from Side A debris pile
- Sample of carpet #1
- Sample of carpet padding
- Sample of carpet #2
- Gas container
- Liquid sample from gas can
- Clothing from victim
- Passport belonging to QUIZON
- Travel documents and work ID
- PA birth certificate #1116760-89
- PA birth certificate #1446040-86
- Montgomery College ID for QUIZON
- Clothing from side A debris pile
- Sweater from side A debris
- Fire debris from side A, yellow fibrous material
- Gypsum board fire debris from side A debris pile
- Wood flooring fire debris side A debris pile
- Autopsy blood card
- One shotgun
- One shotgun Hornady 12GA shell fragment
- Handwritten letter from QUIZON

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INJURIES OR FATALITIES:

Interviews and the location of victims was conducted by Capt. Wirth in conjunction with Gaithersburg City PD and Montgomery County PD. There was one death. The deceased's remains were recovered on 11/17/2023 and transported to Maryland's Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME). Cause of death was smoke inhalation and thermal injuries.

Fourteen people were evaluated by MCFRS EMS crews. Of those, four refused transport and ten were transported by EMS to area hospitals.

Of the ten transported, nine were treated and released the same day. One was admitted and discharged on 11/17/2023.

Other than the decedent, none of the victims sustained burns or injuries usually associated with a blast/pressure wave.

Specifics:

Victim 1: Building 824,

In order to comply with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), all victims will be referred to by an assigned "victim number". The building and apartment number listed is their location at the time of the explosion, not necessarily their address.

. Refusal.

| Victim 2: Building 826, | . Treated and released. | |
|--------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| Victim 3: Building 826, | . Treated and released. | |
| Victim 4: Building 826, | / | . Treated and released. |
| Victim 5: Building 826, | . Deceased. Smoke inhalation and thermal injuries. | |
| Victim 6: Building 826, | | Discharged next day. |
| Victim 7: Building 828, | . Refusal. | |
| Victim 8: Building 828, | . Refusal. | |
| Victim 9: Building 828, | . Treated | and released. |
| Victim 10: Building 828, | . Treated and released. | |
| Victim 11: Building 828, | . Treated and released. | |
| Victim 12: Building 828, | . Jumped from 3rd floor. | . Treated and released. |
| Victim 13: Building 828, | | Treated and released. |
| Victim 14: Building 828 | | Treated and released |

ESTIMATED VALUE OF LOSS:

Victim 15: Building 838,

The estimated monetary value for damages are as follows, 2-million dollars for the structures, 250,000 dollars for contents from the affected buildings, and 100,000 dollars for damages to the area surrounding the affected buildings.

Refusal

WEATHER CONDITIONS:

Time Temp. Dew Point Humidity Wind & Speed Wind Gust Pressure Precip. Condition

5:52 AM 38 °F 36 °F 93 % NNW 5 mph 0 mph 29.68 in 0.0 in Cloudy

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6:52 AM 37 °F 35 °F 93 % CALM 0 mph 0 mph 29.69 in 0.0 in Mostly Cloudy 7:06 AM 35 °F 34 °F 96 % CALM 0 mph 0 mph 29.70 in 0.0 in Partly Cloudy 7:52 AM 38 °F 36 °F 93 % CALM 0 mph 0 mph 29.71 in 0.0 in Mostly Cloudy 8:52 AM 44 °F 38 °F 79 % WNW 6 mph 0 mph 29.72 in 0.0 in Mostly Cloudy 9:52 AM 46 °F 38 °F 73 % WNW 10 mph 0 mph 29.72 in 0.0 in Mostly Cloudy

CONCLUSION:

Area of Origin:

The fire and explosion began in 826 Quince Orchard Boulevard, from apartment 102.

Cause:

The fire and subsequent explosion were caused by incendiary means.

Sequence of events:

It is probable gasoline was poured throughout apartment 102 before it was ignited. The ignition of the vapors resulted in an explosion and fire, which spread to other combustible items throughout the building before venting through the roof. The fire was further supported by natural gas from the residential service line to apartments in the building.

Hypothesis:

It is believed that JUAN PABLO QUIZON poured gasoline throughout apartment 102, in 826 Quince Orchard Boulevard. Some type of open flame was then used to ignite the first item that resulted in an explosion. The explosive force resulted in a partial collapse of 826 from side A, with comparable damage on side C, and damaged buildings 824 and 828 Quince Orchard Boulevard. Additionally, fire spread throughout the building to multiple combustible items before venting through the roof.

Cause Classification:

Incendiary

This case is closed, however, should any new information be presented, the writer reserves the right to reopen the case.

All events occurred in Montgomery County, Maryland.