



Fire Department Investigations Unit  
911 H Street  
Fresno, California 93721-3083



Fire Investigations Unit Supervisor  
Jay Tracy, Deputy Fire Marshal  
(559) 621-4440 FAX # (559) 457-1223

---

## FFD INCIDENT SUMMARY REPORT

**DATE:** Sunday, October 17, 2021 at 1305 hours  
**LOCATION:** 2140 San Joaquin St., Fresno, CA 93721 (Business address: 1651 L St., Fresno)  
**PROPERTY TYPE:** Commercial  
**CLASSIFICATION:** Accidental  
**INCIDENT #:** FFD 21-075838  
**VICTIM:** Property Owner – Light House Recovery Program Inc  
Vikki Luna - CEO  
**REPORTING OFFICER:** Tracy, Jay #F685  
**REPORT #:** 21-075838 JT

### SYNOPSIS

This report documents a brief synopsis of my observations, actions, and findings of a commercial fire investigation. This fire caused major damage to a large residential structure being occupied as a recovery program. The fire was caused when a torch down process was used to repair/replace the roof of a patio that was attached to the structure. The fire is classified as accidental. There were no injuries reported.

### SOURCE OF ACTIVITY

On Sunday, October 17, 2021, at 1305 hours, the Fresno Fire Department (FFD) communications center received multiple 911 calls reporting a structure fire on L St and San Joaquin St. While working as FFD Scene Investigator (I01) I was notified of a working fire located at 2140 San Joaquin St., Fresno, CA 93721, in the County of Fresno. I responded code-three in a marked department vehicle and arrived at approximately 1328 hours.

First arriving units reported smoke and fire from a large commercial structure and requested a second, then a third alarm.

I cleared the incident at approximately 1417 hours to respond to another working commercial structure fire. I returned to the incident at approximately 1620 hours and cleared the scene finally at 1745 hours.

### OBSERVATIONS/ACTIONS

Upon my arrival I observed multiple FFD apparatus and personnel on scene in front of a multiple story commercial structure. There was active smoke and fire present. The fire was observed to vent through the roof shortly after my arrival.

I made contact with FFD incident commander, Fire Battalion Chief Tim Fulmer (BC FULMER) to notify him that I was available to assist in the fire origin and cause investigation. I was directed to make contact with first in Fire Captain Shane Brown (CAPT BROWN) to receive a briefing on the incident. I made contact with CAPT BROWN to notify him that I was available to assist in the investigation. CAPT BROWN requested that I contact available witnesses and responsible parties for contact information and statements. I accepted responsibility for the origin and cause investigation of this incident.

### INVESTIGATION

There are multiple addresses associated with the location: 2140 San Joaquin St , 2136 San Joaquin St , 2134 San Joaquin St and 1651 L St. The 1651 L St address is used by the Light House Recovery Program. My investigation actions and findings are the result of conducting a fire origin and cause investigation including scene processing, photographing the fire scene, interviews of identified and available parties and taking field notes.

During the course of my investigation, I was able to obtain witness statements. I was in full uniform and introduced myself to all parties as a FFD Fire Investigator.



Fire Department Investigations Unit  
911 H Street  
Fresno, California 93721-3083



Fire Investigations Unit Supervisor  
Jay Tracy, Deputy Fire Marshal  
(559) 621-4440 FAX # (559) 457-1223

---

## STATEMENTS

Ms. Vikki Luna identified herself to me as the director of the Lighthouse Recovery program and the responsible party for the structure.

### Summary Statement of Luna, Vikki (VIC LUNA):

CDL: C6495604; DOB: 09/25/69; Address: 3192 W. Palo Alto Ave, Fresno, 93711; Phone: 559-977-4824; CEO Lighthouse Recovery

VIC LUNA stated the program was at capacity and had approximately 13 people inside the structure when the fire was discovered; there are approximately 12 women who reside at the location. VIC LUNA reported a contractor was hired to repair/replace a patio roof. The patio was an extension of the main structure. The repairs were started this morning.

The contractor's employees, reportedly, had left the scene when the Fire Department arrived. VIC LUNA contacted the contractor and requested he return to the location.

End of Statement

### Summary Statement of Stitt, Roberta (WIT STITT):

CDL: A4797467; DOB: 06/21/67; Address: 2021 W. Dakota Ave. #213-G, Fresno, 93705; Phone: 559-273-8092; House Mgr Lighthouse Recovery

WIT STITT reported the roofing contractors were working on the residence this morning. At approximately 1300 hours WIT STITT reported smelling something and thought it was incense at first. WIT STITT investigated the area where the roofers were working and did not see any smoke or anything burning. Shortly after two residents who have a room upstairs smelled smoke and saw smoke coming from the vents.

WIT STITT reported at the point she had all the ladies evacuate the residence and made notifications. WIT STITT did not see fire until she was outside with all the residents.

End of Statement

### Summary Statement of Guevara, Pedro (IP GUEVARA):

CDL: C1075823; DOB: 06/26/60; Address: 937 N. Peach Ave. #140, Fresno, 93727; Phone: 559-394-0619; Pedro's Roofing

IP GUEVARA was at the location when his crew started working this morning. Near the completion of the job, he left the scene and left his employee, Javier Sepeda, in charge. IP GUEVARA stated the job involved removing and replacing a flat roof. A torch down method was used for the roof of the patio. An open flame propane torch is used to seal the seams of the roofing material.

IP GUEVARA stated there were no issues noted prior to his leaving the scene and he has utilized the same procedure many times without any issues. IP GUEVARA did acknowledge that the open flame could have caused issues, but he was not aware of any today. IP GUEVARA was requested to contact Javier Sepeda and the others that assisted with the job and have them contact me.

End of Statement

## SCENE EXAMINATION

### General Description

This fire incident involves a single-family, two-story residence that was converted to be used as a women's rehabilitation facility. The location was inhabited at the time of the fire. The fire originated on the roof of an exterior covered patio where it connects to the main structure. The roof at this location was being repaired/replaced with rolled roofing material that utilized a torch down process to seal the seams of the individual layers of the roof. The fire was identified by the roofing crew but there is question as to whether or not they made notifications or called 911.



Fire Department Investigations Unit  
 911 H Street  
 Fresno, California 93721-3083



Fire Investigations Unit Supervisor  
 Jay Tracy, Deputy Fire Marshal  
 (559) 621-4440 FAX # (559) 457-1223



On San Joaquin facing L St (A-D corner)

General Construction

Building Type:	Type V (Wood Frame)
Approximate Square Footage	4706 square feet; 0.19 acre lot. (Zillow.com)
Foundation:	Basement Foundation / Raised Floor
Exterior Siding:	Wood shingle
Roof:	Asphalt Shingles / Flat Rolled

Fire Damage:

The fire extended from the ground level patio roof, upwards. The building techniques utilized in the era of the building's initial construction could have included balloon frame construction which would have allowed for unabated extension upward to the attic of the structure. The building materials used for the exterior aided in extension and could have exacerbated fire



Fire Department Investigations Unit  
911 H Street  
Fresno, California 93721-3083



Fire Investigations Unit Supervisor  
Jay Tracy, Deputy Fire Marshal  
(559) 621-4440 FAX # (559) 457-1223

spread. A majority of the attic area was involved in fire which in turn damaged the roof trusses and roof covering. There was a partial collapse of the second level into the first level near the center of the structure. The majority of the fire damage was external and within the attic area. Any interior burning was predominately extension from the exterior to the interior or drop down. The structure also sustained major smoke and water damage. The fire operations went defensive and an interior investigation was prohibited due to safety concerns.

#### **AREA OF ORIGIN (AOO)**

Based on my training and experience, witness statements, work recently performed and physical findings that corroborate the preceding, I believe the fire originated on the roof of the patio near the area that it connects to the main structure.



#### **FIRE CAUSE**

I searched the area of origin from the exterior for any type of competent ignition source and/or heat source that would be capable of causing this fire. There were no other ignition sources or heat sources identified within the area of origin. The only possible cause for this fire was the open flame which was carried away by the workers on the roof at the time of ignition. It is my opinion, based upon the scene examination, witness statements and my training and experience and the information known to me at this time that this fire was:



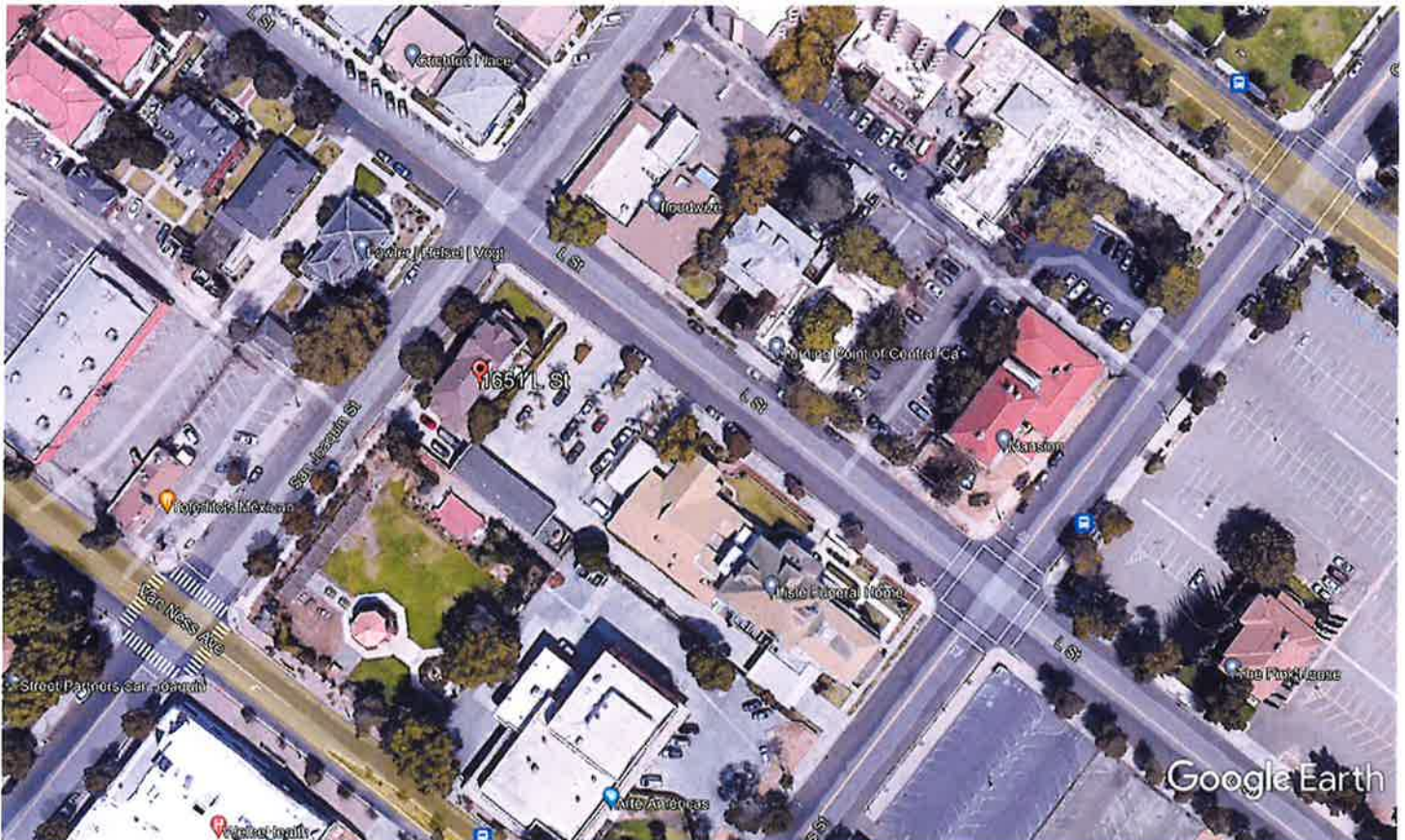
Fire Department Investigations Unit  
911 H Street  
Fresno, California 93721-3083



Fire Investigations Unit Supervisor  
Jay Tracy, Deputy Fire Marshal  
(559) 621-4440 FAX # (559) 457-1223

1. Ignition Source:
  - a. Propane torch
2. Material First Ignited:
  - a. Structural members of the patio roof and/or siding of the structure
3. Oxidant:
  - a. Surrounding air
4. Event Which Brought Ignition Source in Contact with Material First Ignited:
  - a. While utilizing a hot torch method to repair/replace the roof of the patio the structural members and/or siding of the structure was heated to its ignition temperature.

### Overhead View (Google Earth)



### PHOTOS

#53 Digital photographs were taken and uploaded to the electronic case folder

### CONCLUSION

On Sunday, October 17, 2021, at 1305 hours, the Fresno Fire Department (FFD) communications center received multiple 911 calls reporting a structure fire on L St and San Joaquin St. While working as FFD Scene Investigator (I01) I responded and arrived at approximately 1328 hours. I arrived to find a well involved two story single-family residence. Fire crews were engaged in active fire suppression.



Fire Department Investigations Unit  
 911 H Street  
 Fresno, California 93721-3083



Fire Investigations Unit Supervisor  
 Jay Tracy, Deputy Fire Marshal  
 (559) 621-4440 FAX # (559) 457-1223

I made contact with the responsible party for the residence, VIC LUNA. VIC LUNA advised me that there was a roofing contractor onsite this morning who was hired to repair a flat patio roof. This roof covered a patio on the C side of the structure. The residents of the structure reported smelling smoke and then seeing smoke in the vents of the second floor. The construction workers were reported to leave the scene as firefighters arrived. The owner of the roofing company IP GUEVARA arrived and confirmed the information provided by VIC LUNA.

IP GUEVARA confirmed the roofing material was rolled out and a torch down process was used to seal the seams of the roofing material. IP GUEVARA did not have an explanation as to the allegations that his crew left the scene when the fire was discovered. IP GUEVARA was requested to contact his employee's and have them reach out to me. To date that has not occurred.

**CLASSIFICATION OF THE CAUSE**

ACCIDENTAL: The proven cause does not involve an intentional human act (2017 NFPA 921 20.1.1)

**EMERGENCY PERSONNEL WHO CAN TESTIFY**

- 1. TRACY, JAY                                      FFD    DEPUTY FIRE MARSHALL    F685

**RELATED PARTIES**

RELATIONSHIP TO CASE Javier Sepeda Crew supervisor 559-750-0619	Pedro Guevara Pedro's roofing LIC #106977 Company is reported to be bonded and insured	
--	---	--

**END OF REPORT**