

RE: REQUEST - Call for Records PSS-2023-30405 - Due February 24, 2023

From: Van Tassel, Liz EMCR:EX <Liz.VanTassel@gov.bc.ca>
To: Rothe, Karen J EMCR:EX <Karen.Rothe@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: February 17, 2023 11:48:21 AM PST
Attachments: NWI_2022_10_10_03_01 Report.pdf, NWI_2022_10_10_03_01 Report.docx
Hi Karen

Here are the 2 copies of the fire investigation reports I found on the LAN . I had time to look and it took me like 2 mins to find it . The pictures on the other hand are going to take a bit to send to you as there are a ton.

Liz

From: Rothe, Karen J EMCR:EX <Karen.Rothe@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: February 17, 2023 11:17
To: Van Tassel, Liz EMCR:EX <Liz.VanTassel@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: REQUEST - Call for Records PSS-2023-30405 - Due February 24, 2023
Importance: High

Hi Liz,

Would you please forward to the appropriate FSA—think it's Dave Boreen, cc to Sheldon and the ADFC?—and then flip the response back to me and I will review for harms.

Thank you,

Karen

From: AG PSSG FOI Coordinator AG:EX <AGPSSG.FOICoordinator@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: February 16, 2023 15:11
To: Rothe, Karen J EMCR:EX <Karen.Rothe@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: AG PSSG FOI Coordinator AG:EX <AGPSSG.FOICoordinator@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Call for Records PSS-2023-30405 - Due February 24, 2023

Please see the below new call for records, please canvass your branch for records relating to the request. If the Branch holds records please either send the native records to Central FOI or upload them to the FileShare and notify Central FOI.

If a Fee Estimate is required please send over the estimation by February 24, 2023. If this request is a NRR please send the ADM approved CFR form to Central FOI by March 1, 2023.

Holly Skogstad
Central FOI Coordinator
(778) 698-3889 | holly.skogstad@gov.bc.ca

Good afternoon,

Please see details below regarding this formal request made under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIPPA):

Fire Investigation report and pictures for: 492 Lakeview Drive, Invermere. It was a McDonalds building under construction. DOL: 2022-10-10, cause was incendiary. (Date Range for Record Search: From 10/9/2022 To 10/11/2022) Date Format is MM/DD/YYYY

Applicant Type: Other Public Body



Office of the Fire Commissioner
Fire investigation Report

- ☒ Report of Suspicious Fire - Provide Incident and PFR Numbers
Request for Fire Investigation
Other Assistance Requested - Specify Below
☒ Advisory Only

Incident No. NWI202210100301
PFR No.

Report Received Date: 2022/10/10

Time: 0715

Call Taken By: Fire Service Advisor Dave Boreen

From: Assistant Fire Chief Joss Advocaat

Date of Incident: 2022-10-10

Time: 0319

Location: 4912 Athalmer Road, Invermere BC

Property Use: Restaurant, under construction

Owner's Name:

Occupier's Name:

Address:

Injuries or Deaths: No injuries or deaths.

R.C.M.P. – File- Invermere Detachment 2022-2868

Other Agencies:

R.C.M.P. – Andrew HENNEBERRY, Andrew CORY

Columbia Valley Rural Fire and Rescue Services – Assistant Fire Chief Joss Advocaat, Deputy Fire Chief

Jon Tames, Fire Chief Drew Sinclair

Investigation Notes:

This material is being provided for investigational purposes only.

Within its mandate, the Office of the Fire Commissioner is limited to investigate and determine fire causation. All other facets identified within this investigation are provided as assistance to the respective investigational agencies.

On Monday October 10th, Windermere Fire Department contacted Fire Services Advisor Dave Boreen, requesting assistance with a fire investigation for a suspicious fire that occurred at 4912 Athalmer Road,

Invermere BC. The specific request was to check for accelerant use, as 10 separate areas of origin were identified.

As a result of this request, Fire Service Advisor Dave Boreen was assigned to the fire causation aspect of this investigation.

Synopsis:

On Monday October 10th, 2022, at approximately 0715 hours MST the Windermere Fire Department Assistant Fire Chief Joss Advocaat contacted Dave Boreen from the Office of the Fire Commissioner to request assistance relating to fire cause determination involving a suspicious fire located at 4912 Athalmer Road, Invermere BC. This location is within the fire protection boundaries of the Windermere Fire Department.

At approximately 1030 hours MST on October 10, 2022, Fire Service Advisor Dave Boreen attended the fire scene at 4912 Athalmer Road, Invermere BC. Upon attendance Dave Boreen was briefed by Assistant Fire Chief Joss Advocaat regarding his understanding of the circumstances of this incident. His understanding of the circumstances is from his personal observations during the fire response. Circumstances surrounding the incident are as follows:

- Initial report of fire at 0319 MST.
- Fire was reported by the RCMP, smoke and visible flame present.
- First arriving fire unit at 0330, Deputy Chief 2593
- Suppression crews identified that multiple fires within the structure.
- Fire called out at 0405
- On arrival the entry door on A side of the building was closed but not secure
- On arrival the entry door on D side of the building was open
- The only electrical power into the building is the contractor cord and power box. The building electrical system is not energized.

There are Forty Three (43) scene photos attached to this file, eight (8) photographs are used for illustration purposes.

Investigation Process

My investigation started on the exterior, these are my exterior observations and findings;

- Building was under construction; the general exterior area was typical for a construction worksite.
- The exterior of the building showed no smoke staining or fire damage.
- The man door on the Alpha side was propped open with a pallet. This was confirmed by AFC Advocaat to have been done by the suppression crews.
- The man door on the Delta side was open. This was confirmed by AFC Advocaat to be the position the door was in on arrival of the fire crews.
- Delta side of the building had large amounts of cardboard and other construction debris. A flat deck trailer was also situated on the Delta side. There was a 20-litre fuel container containing diesel fuel on the trailer deck.
- Situated on the Delta side of the construction yard was a small construction office. Outside the office was a 10-litre fuel container containing gasoline.
- The only exterior materials that showed fire damage were a stack of ceiling tiles that were brought outside by the firefighters



Figure 1 - Exterior Alpha Side



Figure 2 - Exterior Delta Side showing open man door



Figure 3- 20 litre Diesel located on Delta side

My investigation moved to the interior of the structure, starting at the same door on the Alpha side where suppression crews made their entry. These are my observations.

- Multiple areas of origin, all areas appeared to be focused on readily available combustible materials within the building
- All the fire damage appeared to be building content fires only and did not involve building structural components.
- Area of most fire damage was in the seating area of the restaurant. This was likely to be caused by a large fuel load of construction materials located at that location.



Figure 4 – Area of most fire damage



Figure 5 – Electrical building materials in seating area



Figure 6 – Building materials in seating area



Figure 7 – Broom found in kitchen area



Figure 8 – Floor area burns, like other floor area burns throughout the building

- After a complete walkthrough and examination of the burns throughout the building I decided to test for accelerants using my assigned Grace Industries 950-ASH Accelerant and Hydrocarbon detector.
 - I performed the unit calibration as per the manufacturer's instructions.
 - I tested locations as per the manufacturer's instructions.
- I tested at all the identified burn locations and at no time did the device indicate the presence of accelerant or hydrocarbons.

- The area and material burned needed a confident ignition source that could sustain ignition of the materials ignited. Through debris removal, and visual inspections, a search was conducted to locate a confident ignition source at all burn locations. No ignition sources could be located.
- I also conducted a larger exterior perimeter search to possibly locate an ignition device, no ignition devices were located.

Summary

This investigation was focused on a fire start that was located at 4912 Athalmer Rd. The approach utilized throughout this investigation by this investigator, is incorporated in the scientific method as defined by NFPA 921. NFPA 921 provides several incendiary fire cause indicators that are relevant to this investigation:

- 1- Lack of ignition sources in the general area of fire development.
- 2- Unusual or lack of fuel configuration at points of origin.
- 3- Lack of or minimal combustible material at the points of origin.

Throughout this scene examination, evidence of an incendiary fire was noted and documented.

After examination of this fire scene, it is this investigator's opinion that this incident that occurred at this location could not be natural or accidental. Hypothesis were developed and tested, then selected as necessary to determine origin and cause that can be expressed as a level of certainty. After examination of this fire scene, it is this investigator's opinion this fire was incendiary in nature, all natural and accidental factors have been taken into consideration for this incident. The lack of heat and or ignition sources for this incident are absent and could not be located, but the level of certainty is greater than 50% and therefore ruled probable at this time. The fire cause determination for this incident is ruled incendiary at this time but may change if additional evidence is brought forward.

- All natural and accidental causation factors have been taken into consideration for this incident.
- Point of Origin – Multiple points of origin identified
- Area of Origin – Interior of the building – seating area, kitchen area, utility area
- Materials first ignited - undetermined
- Source of Ignition – undetermined
- Act or Omission – Incendiary

Office of the Fire Commissioner

F.S.A. Assigned: Dave Boreen

Contact: dave.boreen@gov.bc.ca

Telephone: 250-421-1623

Signed _____

Dave Boreen
Fire Service Advisor
Office of the Fire Commissioner
Emergency Management B.C.

FOI Pictures

From: Van Tassel, Liz EMCR:EX <Liz.VanTassel@gov.bc.ca>
To: Rothe, Karen J EMCR:EX <Karen.Rothe@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: February 17, 2023 1:04:23 PM PST
Attachments: IMG_0110.JPG, IMG_0114.JPG, image001.jpg, image002.jpg, IMG_0116.JPG,
IMG_0115.JPG, IMG_0112.JPG, IMG_0113.JPG, IMG_0111.JPG, IMG_0108.JPG,
IMG_0109.JPG, IMG_0107.JPG

One of 3 emails probably

Liz

Liz Van Tassell | Administrative Assistant

Office of the Fire Commissioner | Public Safety & Solicitor General | 778-405-4018

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FOI pictures

From: Van Tassel, Liz EMCR:EX <Liz.VanTassel@gov.bc.ca>
To: Rothe, Karen J EMCR:EX <Karen.Rothe@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: February 17, 2023 1:06:57 PM PST
Attachments: IMG_0120.JPG, IMG_0122.JPG, IMG_0124.JPG, image001.jpg, image002.jpg,
IMG_0125.JPG, IMG_0123.JPG, IMG_0121.JPG, IMG_0118.JPG, IMG_0119.JPG,
IMG_0117.JPG

Karen

Here is another email

Liz

Liz Van Tassell | Administrative Assistant

Office of the Fire Commissioner | Public Safety & Solicitor General | 778-405-4018

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FOI Pictures

From: Van Tassel, Liz EMCR:EX <Liz.VanTassel@gov.bc.ca>
To: Rothe, Karen J EMCR:EX <Karen.Rothe@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: February 17, 2023 1:10:08 PM PST
Attachments: IMG_0129.JPG, IMG_0131.JPG, IMG_0133.JPG, image001.jpg, image002.jpg,
IMG_0134.JPG, IMG_0132.JPG, IMG_0130.JPG, IMG_0127.JPG, IMG_0128.JPG,
IMG_0126.JPG

Another set of pictures

Liz

Liz Van Tassell | Administrative Assistant

Office of the Fire Commissioner | Public Safety & Solicitor General | 778-405-4018

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FOI Pictures

From: Van Tassel, Liz EMCR:EX <Liz.VanTassel@gov.bc.ca>
To: Rothe, Karen J EMCR:EX <Karen.Rothe@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: February 17, 2023 1:12:21 PM PST
Attachments: IMG_0138.JPG, IMG_0140.JPG, IMG_0142.JPG, image001.jpg, image002.jpg,
IMG_0143.JPG, IMG_0141.JPG, IMG_0139.JPG, IMG_0136.JPG, IMG_0137.JPG,
IMG_0135.JPG

One more set

Liz

Liz Van Tassell | Administrative Assistant

Office of the Fire Commissioner | Public Safety & Solicitor General | 778-405-4018

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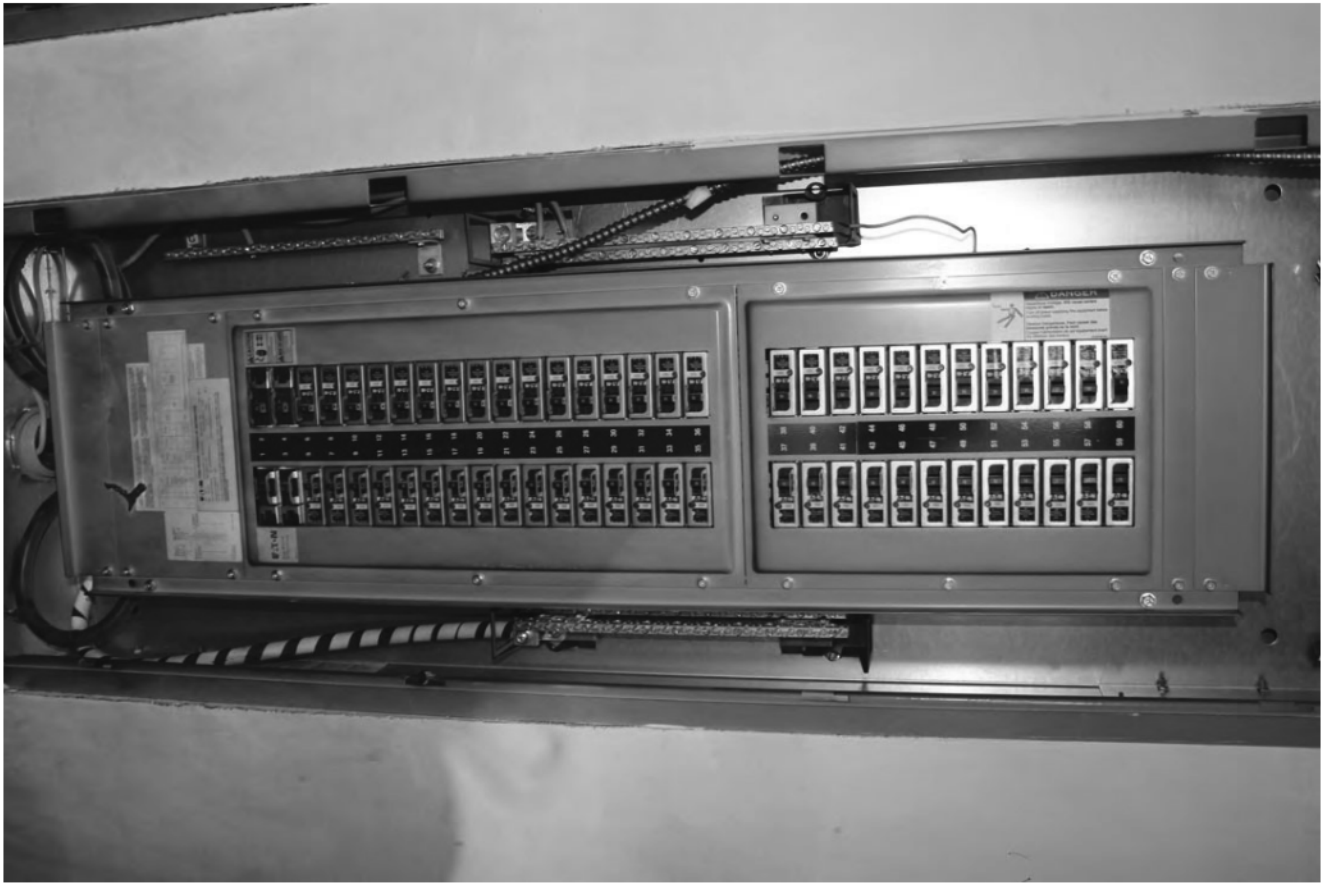




















FOI Pictures

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To: Rothe, Karen J EMCR:EX <Karen.Rothe@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: February 17, 2023 1:14:04 PM PST
Attachments: IMG_0147.JPG, IMG_0149.JPG, image001.jpg, image002.jpg, IMG_0148.JPG,
IMG_0145.JPG, IMG_0146.JPG, IMG_0144.JPG

Here are the last of the pictures we have .

Liz

Liz Van Tassell | Administrative Assistant
Office of the Fire Commissioner | Public Safety & Solicitor General | 778-405-4018

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