

Incident Report  
 2017-1716613 -000

Printed: 10/25/2017 12:11:16  
 Number of Pages: 12

<b>Basic</b>	
Alarm Date and Time	10:44:16 Thursday, October 5, 2017
Arrival Time	10:50:55
Controlled Date and Time	
Last Unit Cleared Date and Time	16:57:50 Thursday, October 5, 2017
Response Time	0:06:39
Priority Response	Yes
Completed	Yes
Shift	B
Incident Type	111 - Building fire
Aid Given or Received	1 - Mutual aid received
Mutual Aid Department	37D02-District 02
Action Taken 1	11 - Extinguish
Action Taken 2	12 - Salvage & overhaul
Casualties	No
Apparatus - Suppression	12
Personnel - Suppression Personnel	27
Property Loss	\$150,000.00
Contents Loss	\$50,000.00
Property Value	\$150,000.00
Contents Value	\$50,000.00
Detector Alerted occupants	U
Property Use	419 - 1 or 2 family dwelling
Location Type	Address
Address	1017 JERSEY ST
City, State Zip	BELLINGHAM, WA 98225
District	030004
<b>Situation</b>	
Initial Dispatch Code	69D06
Final Dispatch Code	69D06
<b>Person Involved - ,</b>	
Involvement Code	REP
Street Address	
Phone	3604108755
<b>Fire</b>	
Structure Type	1 - Enclosed building
Number of Residential	2
Number of Buildings Involved	2
Area of Origin	UU - Undetermined
Heat Source	UU - Undetermined
Item First Ignited	UU - Undetermined
Cause of Ignition	3 - Undetermined
Contribution To Ignition 1	70 - Fire spread or control, other
<b>Structure</b>	
Status	2 - In normal use

Incident Report  
 2017-1716613 -000

Printed: 10/25/2017 12:11:16  
 Number of Pages: 12

<b>Structure</b>	
Floor of Origin	1
Origin Below Grade	Yes
Stories Above Grade	1
Stories Below Grade	1
Total Square Feet	800
Fire Spread	5 - Beyond building of origin
Item Contributing To Spread	10 - Structural component or finish, other
Type of Material Contributing To	64 - Plywood
Detector Presence	3
AES Presence	3

<b>Apparatus - B1</b>	
Apparatus ID	B1
Apparatus Dispatch Date and Time	10:45:31 Thursday, October 5, 2017
En route to scene date and time	10:46:54 Thursday, October 5, 2017
Apparatus Clear Date and Time	13:43:12 Thursday, October 5, 2017
Apparatus priority response	Yes
Number of People	1
Apparatus Use	1
Apparatus Type	91 - Mobile command post
Personnel 1	204 - GUSTAFSON, CARY W Position: BC

<b>Apparatus - L5</b>	
Apparatus ID	L5
Apparatus Dispatch Date and Time	10:45:31 Thursday, October 5, 2017
En route to scene date and time	10:46:13 Thursday, October 5, 2017
Apparatus priority response	Yes
Number of People	3
Apparatus Use	1
Apparatus Type	12 - Truck or aerial
Personnel 1	193 - LARSON, MICHAEL J Position: CAPT
Personnel 2	247 - NORDMEYER, TODD C Position: FFDR
Personnel 3	392 - LEWIS, JOHN W Position: FF

<b>Apparatus - M1</b>	
Apparatus ID	M1
Apparatus Dispatch Date and Time	10:45:31 Thursday, October 5, 2017
En route to scene date and time	10:47:45 Thursday, October 5, 2017
Apparatus priority response	Yes
Number of People	2
Apparatus Use	1
Apparatus Type	76 - ALS unit
Personnel 1	290 - STARKEY, CHRISTOPHER W Position: FFMED

Incident Report  
 2017-1716613 -000

Printed: 10/25/2017 12:11:16  
 Number of Pages: 12

**Apparatus - M1**

Personnel 2 268 - HALL, SCOTT E  
 Position: FFMED

**Apparatus - E1**

Apparatus ID E1  
 Response Time 0:05:24  
 Apparatus Dispatch Date and Time 10:45:31 Thursday, October 5, 2017  
 En route to scene date and time 10:46:56 Thursday, October 5, 2017  
 Apparatus Arrival Date and Time 10:50:55 Thursday, October 5, 2017  
 Apparatus Clear Date and Time 13:42:58 Thursday, October 5, 2017  
 Apparatus priority response Yes  
 Number of People 3  
 Apparatus Use 1  
 Apparatus Type 11 - Engine  
 Personnel 1 393 - HOFFMAN, JOSHUA R  
 Position: FF  
 Personnel 2 237 - PETERSON, SCOTT R  
 Position: FFDR  
 Personnel 3 323 - NIELSEN, DAVID J  
 Position: CAPT

**Apparatus - E3**

Apparatus ID E3  
 Response Time 0:05:50  
 Apparatus Dispatch Date and Time 10:45:31 Thursday, October 5, 2017  
 En route to scene date and time 10:47:35 Thursday, October 5, 2017  
 Apparatus Arrival Date and Time 10:51:21 Thursday, October 5, 2017  
 Apparatus Clear Date and Time 13:39:35 Thursday, October 5, 2017  
 Apparatus priority response Yes  
 Number of People 3  
 Apparatus Use 1  
 Apparatus Type 11 - Engine  
 Personnel 1 264 - STEPHAN, DAVID M  
 Position: CAPT  
 Personnel 2 330 - JARVIS, JAKE A  
 Position: FFDR  
 Personnel 3 389 - SMITH, COLLIN B  
 Position: FF

**Apparatus - E4**

Apparatus ID E4  
 Response Time 0:04:24  
 Apparatus Dispatch Date and Time 10:47:17 Thursday, October 5, 2017  
 En route to scene date and time 10:47:17 Thursday, October 5, 2017  
 Apparatus Arrival Date and Time 10:51:41 Thursday, October 5, 2017  
 Apparatus priority response Yes  
 Number of People 3  
 Apparatus Use 1

Incident Report  
 2017-1716613 -000

Printed: 10/25/2017 12:11:16  
 Number of Pages: 12

**Apparatus - E4**

Apparatus Type	11 - Engine
Personnel 1	341 - BLOUIN, TYRELL L Position: FFMED
Personnel 2	358 - IRELAND, JESSE R Position: FF
Personnel 3	284 - WALVATNE, BRYANT J Position: FFDR

**Apparatus - EMS1**

Apparatus ID	EMS1
Response Time	0:06:57
Apparatus Dispatch Date and Time	10:45:31 Thursday, October 5, 2017
En route to scene date and time	10:47:21 Thursday, October 5, 2017
Apparatus Arrival Date and Time	10:52:28 Thursday, October 5, 2017
Apparatus priority response	Yes
Number of People	1
Apparatus Use	1
Apparatus Type	92 - Chief officer car
Personnel 1	236 - STEVENSON, ROBERT W Position: CAPTMED

**Apparatus - E2**

Apparatus ID	E2
Response Time	0:07:59
Apparatus Dispatch Date and Time	10:45:31 Thursday, October 5, 2017
En route to scene date and time	10:47:10 Thursday, October 5, 2017
Apparatus Arrival Date and Time	10:53:30 Thursday, October 5, 2017
Apparatus Clear Date and Time	12:32:57 Thursday, October 5, 2017
Apparatus priority response	Yes
Number of People	3
Apparatus Use	1
Apparatus Type	11 - Engine
Personnel 1	229 - COMFORT, JAY C Position: CAPT
Personnel 2	325 - FLEMING, AARON * Position: FFMED
Personnel 3	262 - JENSEN, KURTIS D Position: FFDR

**Apparatus - E6**

Apparatus ID	E6
Response Time	0:08:10
Apparatus Dispatch Date and Time	10:49:41 Thursday, October 5, 2017
En route to scene date and time	10:50:42 Thursday, October 5, 2017
Apparatus Arrival Date and Time	10:57:51 Thursday, October 5, 2017
Apparatus priority response	Yes
Number of People	3
Apparatus Use	1

Incident Report  
 2017-1716613 -000

Printed: 10/25/2017 12:11:16  
 Number of Pages: 12

**Apparatus - E6**

Apparatus Type	11 - Engine
Personnel 1	318 - BARTOK, SCOTT J Position: FFDR
Personnel 2	257 - PARKER, DAVID L Position: CAPT
Personnel 3	365 - LONG, BRIAN E Position: FF

**Apparatus - E31**

Apparatus ID	E31
Response Time	0:08:45
Apparatus Dispatch Date and Time	10:49:41 Thursday, October 5, 2017
En route to scene date and time	10:52:20 Thursday, October 5, 2017
Apparatus Arrival Date and Time	10:58:26 Thursday, October 5, 2017
Apparatus Clear Date and Time	11:45:42 Thursday, October 5, 2017
Apparatus priority response	Yes
Number of People	2
Apparatus Use	1
Apparatus Type	11 - Engine
Personnel 1	385 - DESSERT, SCOTT M Position: CAPT
Personnel 2	327 - COOK, MATTHEW G Position: FFMED

**Apparatus - C102**

Apparatus ID	C102
Response Time	0:03:01
Apparatus Dispatch Date and Time	11:09:32 Thursday, October 5, 2017
En route to scene date and time	11:09:32 Thursday, October 5, 2017
Apparatus Arrival Date and Time	11:12:33 Thursday, October 5, 2017
Apparatus Clear Date and Time	12:34:47 Thursday, October 5, 2017
Apparatus priority response	Yes
Number of People	1
Apparatus Use	1
Apparatus Type	92 - Chief officer car
Personnel 1	370 - HEWETT, BILL C Position: ASTCH

**Apparatus - E34**

Apparatus ID	E34
Response Time	0:14:03
Apparatus Dispatch Date and Time	11:09:13 Thursday, October 5, 2017
En route to scene date and time	11:09:37 Thursday, October 5, 2017
Apparatus Arrival Date and Time	11:23:16 Thursday, October 5, 2017
Apparatus Clear Date and Time	11:38:54 Thursday, October 5, 2017
Apparatus priority response	Yes
Number of People	2
Apparatus Use	1

**Apparatus - E34**

Apparatus Type	11 - Engine
Personnel 1	307 - JIRSA, ED T Position: CAPT
Personnel 2	258 - BUSSARD, MARIE S Position: FFMED

**Authority**

Reported By	323 - NIELSEN, DAVID J 18:22:17 Thursday, October 5, 2017
Officer In Charge	323 - NIELSEN, DAVID J 17:45:09 Thursday, October 5, 2017
Reviewer	- ,

**Narratives**

Narrative Name	Command
Narrative Type	Incident
Narrative Date	16:38:55 Thursday, October 5, 2017
Author	208 - DAY, ANDREW D
Author Rank	BC
Author Assignment	1
Narrative Text	Multiple Structure Fire

**Response**

Full structural assignment to a reported structure fire at 1017 Jersey Street. Another engine, and then a second alarm were called enroute based on reports of flames and then two houses being on fire.

**On Scene**

First units on scene observed heavy fire and smoke coming from all sides of a one story (with basement) at 1017 Jersey Street, as well as significant involvement on the adjacent residence (1019 Jersey) of similar design.

Units worked to first confine the fire to the structures that were on fire, then extinguished the fires, beginning on the exterior, and finally moving into the interior to complete the job. Primary and secondary searches on both structures were completed with nothing found, gas and electrical service was turned off,

Scene was organized with an incident commander, two division supervisors, one safety officer, and a Public Information Officer.

**Notifications**

- Gas and electric utilities were requested and arrived at the scene to confirm that the utilities were controlled.
- Investigators
- Red Cross: a Disaster Assistance Team arrived and coordinated relief efforts with WWU Housing Office.

**Narratives**

Disposition

Scene left in care of Fire Investigators. Refer to investigation report for details on origin and cause of the fire.

Andy Day

Battalion Chief

Engine 1

Incident

18:00:22 Thursday, October 5, 2017

323 - NIELSEN, DAVID J

CAPT

1

At 1044 hours on Thursday October 5, 2017 we were dispatched to a building fire. Twelve units were assigned to this incident. Twenty-seven personnel responded. We arrived on scene at 1050 hours and cleared at 1657 hours. The incident occurred at 1017 JERSEY St, BELLINGHAM in District 030004. The general description of this property is 1 or 2 family dwelling. The primary task(s) performed at the scene by responding personnel was extinguishment. Mutual aid was received on this incident.

The involved structure is described as an enclosed building. The building was occupied and operating. This building has one story above ground. The fire occurred on the first floor below grade. The fire spread beyond the building of origin. Failure of equipment or heat source caused the ignition. "Fire spread or control" contributed to the ignition of the fire.

The material contributing most to flame spread was "plywood". The use, or purpose of the contributing material was "structural component or finish".

The estimated property loss on this incident was \$150,000. The estimated content loss was \$50,000. The estimated property value was \$150,000. The estimated content value was \$50,000.

Alarm number 1716613 has been assigned to this incident.

E1 and BFD full structure response was dispatched to a house fire at 1017 Jersey Street, flames showing.

E1 arrived first on scene at 1017 Jersey Street - a SFR, one story with a basement accessible only from the Charlie side. Heavy fire was showing from the Bravo, Charlie and Delta sides of the structure. The Charlie basement and first floor were fully involved. The fire had already spread to 1019 Jersey Street - an identical SFR only 5' away on the Delta side of 1017 Jersey Street.

E1 initially used a preconnect to knock down fire on the Delta side of 1017 Jersey and Alpha side of 1019 Jersey. The preconnect was advanced between the buildings and used in a defensive manner through exterior windows to knock down most all the fire in 1019 Jersey and then reset the fire in 1017 Jersey.

Narrative Name

Narrative Type

Narrative Date

Author

Author Rank

Author Assignment

Narrative Text

**Narratives**

E2 parked in the alley and used their own preconnect to attack fire at 1017 Jersey Charlie Side. E3 and E4 advanced hose lines through the Alpha side first floors of both structures to put out all remaining fire.

Plastic and canvas tarps were used in the bedroom areas to attempt to salvage and protect valuables. Significant overhaul was performed on both structures to find and extinguish hidden fire.

1017 Jersey was turned over to BFD Inspectors. 1019 Jersey Street was turned over to the occupants of the house. E1 and E3 assisted the occupants in removing some of their belongings.

E1 cleared the scene.

David Nielsen  
Engine 1 Captain

Narrative Name  
Narrative Type  
Narrative Date  
Author  
Author Rank  
Author Assignment  
Narrative Text

INS. 103 INTERVIEWS

Incident

15:58:23 Thursday, October 12, 2017

219 - TARABOCHIA, MARK A

INSP

3

Ryan Schluter: DOB= 9-18-1996, Phone= 541-948-5748

Ryan lives at 1017 Jersey St. Ryan states that he came back to the house about 7:40 a.m. and left again at around 8:00 a.m. He stated that the lights kind of flickered last night, and that this was new to all of them, but that they stopped after a few seconds. He states that they have had other electrical issues in the house, and that they have relayed this info. To the property manager. He stated that all four of them smoke, but only in the evening, and that they use ash trays in the house, and also smoke on the back porch. He stated that the heat was on last night, but was turned off this morning. Ryan says that all four get along great. He also stated that when he left the house this morning that he saw or smelled nothing unusual.

Jenny Harding: DOB= 4-7-1997, Phone= 206-551-4738

Jenny lived in 1019 Jersey St. Jenny stated that she left for school around 8:45 a.m. and said she noticed nothing, or smelled nothing when she left.

Grace Peyerwold: DOB= 2-18-1998, Phone= 971-221-0369

Grace lived in 1019 Jersey St. Grace said that she left the house around 9:30 a.m. and noticed nothing unusual.

Celida Moran: DOB=12-2-1997, Phone= 415-686-5812

Celida lives in 1019 Jersey St. Celida stated that she left the house around 7:30 this morning and stated that she did not notice anything

Narrative Name  
Narrative Type  
Narrative Date  
Author  
Author Rank

Insp102 Investigatio

Incident

15:17:25 Tuesday, October 24, 2017

238 - SLUYS, GREGORY J

INSP

**Narratives**

Author Assignment 3  
Narrative Text FIRE REPORT

Incident # BF17-16613

Address: 1017 Jersey

Note: The address next door, 1019 Jersey, was also damaged during the fire.

Date of Incident: 10/05/17

**Response**

On 10/06/17, at 10:44, the Bellingham Fire Department responded to a fully involved structure fire. It was a residential building at the above address. No difficulties (other than terrain at site) were encountered during the response. Please see the RMS report for apparatus and personnel that responded. Fire investigators were requested at 10:55 (all times given are stated as military).

As the occupancy terrain was quite steep from the front to the back, the house was a single story (as viewed from Jersey Street) with a rear-facing daylight basement.

**Weather**

Weather was quite fair. No clouds or rain; rather it was sunny and warm. Temperature was approximately 60 degree F.

**Interviews (in order of taken)**

Thomas Joo, phone 206.713.4957, resident at 1017 Jersey, Thomas stated the following: He left the building at 0830; no problems seen. Nothing on the stove.

Thomas quoted Ryan (a roommate) who, the night before, had said that his overhead bedroom light was flickering oddly.

When they moved in the found that outlets were duct taped in place.

The landlord had been told about the outlets.

No candles in use.

No fireworks used the night prior.

People smoke marijuana outside, near the fire pit. (Further interviews stated that smoking was done inside as well).

John Wayne, phone 214.842.7120, DOB 09/09/89. John was one of the first callers on the fire (10:46). John stated the following:

John is not a tenant of the space. He is friends with Thomas Joo.

He was in an old RV behind the residence. He was running a "3D printer." (Later John

**Narratives**

showed me the printer, a "Cubicon, model name SinglePlus." Power consumption was 5 amps.) The printer was powered via an extension cord from the RV to the house. The cord entered thru into the kitchen area window on the C side, near the B/C corner, and plugged into the outlet near the rear door, side C, to the left of the door as you look out.

That morning, and still when I interviewed him, his contacts were not in; he could not see very well. But he could see fire low through a window in the kitchen door, side C. The window in that door was mid-chest high. He did not see any flame in the other windows.

He kicked open the kitchen door and yelled to see if anyone was home. That was when the flames "really grew."

He broke out the kitchen window on the C side, and then ran around and broke out windows in the house.

He found all other windows "were black" prior to his breaking them. He felt that they had no flames in those rooms.

Ryan Schulten, phone 541.948.5748, DOB 08/18/96, resident at 1017 Jersey. Ryan stated the following:

Left for school at 08:30. All was well. Nothing on the stove.

Ryan confirmed that his bedroom light was "flickering oddly" the night before. It was the first time that that had ever happened.

Stove did not work. Dishwasher did not work. He stated that as if it was electrical problems.

He did smoke marijuana inside, but only in the evening.

He was not home the night before; he came home in the morning to get ready for school. Dave Hansen, owner, and Cheri Richey, employee of Dave's, both work at Lakeway Realty, work phone 360.733.4009. Dave stated the following:

When asked if he knew of any electrical issues with the home said that no problems had been reported.

Insurance Agent for the house. Name not found in my notes. He stated that the house was shown in his records as being built in 1945.

Captain Nielson, first in engine. He stated the following:  
It was fully involved when he arrived (at 10:51)

He was first in but the terrain of the site (downwards from the front to the back) was very steep; this made it a large challenge to fight fire. The 1019 Jersey was burning so his crew concentrated on protecting the exposure (1019 Jersey).

The second-in took a line in the back, Charlie side, basement via the alley. (10:53)

### Narratives

Neighbor (name not gotten)

Stated that when they arrived some Caucasian male, medium build, age mid-20's, "in a dark trench coat" saw them and took off running up Jersey Street.

Investigation

By now fellow investigator, Inspector Tarabochia, had completed his interviews. He relayed what he had found. Please see his statements.

The structure was built in an unexpected way; all the walls and ceiling surfaces were found to be  $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick tongue-and-groove cedar. We had expected lath and plaster. The fire spread was very intense due to this construction, as well as the fact that the building was heavily vented (breaking of windows) by three different people (the previously mentioned John Wayne, one girl from the 1019 occupancy, and one walking passerby). There were no clear v-patterns on the walls or ceiling. Instead, there was heavy deep char on all walls and ceiling.

The building had had a new circuit panel installed, complete with circuit breakers. All of them, unfortunately, were found to be tripped. The actually wiring of the building was the older style of knob and tube.

The depth of char showed that the fire had started in the basement rooms. The living room was in the C/D corner of the basement, and the kitchen was in the B/C corner. The living room had the greatest char; ALL walls and ceiling of the living room had very deep char with many places  $\frac{1}{2}$ " to  $\frac{5}{8}$ " thick of char. No discernable v-pattern was seen in the char. The tenants said that the living room had three stuffed chairs in it; we could only find remnants of two with the third one (the one closest to the kitchen) being totally consumed. These three chairs represented a huge fuel load for such a small room; their burning could have easily explained the LR high char.

The kitchen had heavy char as well but this greatly lessened as one went from the C side to the A side of that room; a section at the C side that was heavily burned up through the ceiling and out an exterior wall at the B/C corner. We found heavy char in the wall, centered and below the window of the kitchen C wall, but further conversations with the owners found no large quantity of fuel there (i.e. no paper, recycle bins, or such). That point below the window had a hole burned through the wall. I was able to use this hole to take a behind-the-wall picture of the outlet (see below). We could find no reason for the low hole to be in the C wall. The wooden kitchen tabletop was totally consumed.

We reviewed the area of the outlet that was used to power John Wayne's 3D printer. Side C of kitchen, just to the left of the rear exit door as you face outside at the door. Using my phone to take pictures, I found there was no char on the backside of the wall at that outlet. On previous fire investigations, I have found that large load on knob and tube wiring can create high heat in the wiring and make the ceramic tubes get so hot they ignite the wood. On that previous fire investigation there was clear patterns that pointed to the plug wiring. We did not find any of those patterns at Jersey fire and could not say that the 5 amp load could have caused this fire.

The refrigerator was warped from the high heat. It was located at the doorway between the

**Narratives**

LR and the kitchen.

The washer/dryer showed no indication that they were the cause of the fire. They were located further back in the kitchen.

The stove had not food on the stove, and there was no indication of a fire starting on top of it, or behind it.

**Conclusions**

We found multiple possibilities of how the fire started; electrical problems, a man running away, marijuana smoking in the living room.

With the cedar walls and ceilings, heavy venting by bystanders, and three stuffed chairs in the small living room, we had a great deal of property destruction. This made further investigation quite difficult.

We 'possibly' could have gotten further information with a char map of all surfaces of the lower basement rooms. With the multiple possibilities, and high destruction previously stated, we felt that even a char map would not have provided conclusive information.

Therefore -

Origin - Lower basement rooms (exact room unknown)

Cause - Undetermined

Pictures available upon request.

Greg Sluys  
Senior Fire Inspector  
Certified Fire Investigator

Narrative Name	New Narrative
Narrative Type	Incident
Narrative Date	15:30:18 Tuesday, October 24, 2017
Author	238 - SLUYS, GREGORY J
Author Rank	INSP
Author Assignment	3

End of Report