

# SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATION REPORT

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
LE 71 (REV. 7/2011)

INCIDENT NUMBER	
15CALNU008670	
CASE NAME	
VALLEY	
UNIT	CASE NUMBER
LNU	15CALNU008670

DAY	MONTH	DATE	YEAR	COUNTY	REGION	UNIT	CASE NUMBER
SAT	SEPT	12	2015	LAKE	CNR	LNU	15CALNU008670

1 On Saturday, September 12, 2015 I was assigned as Prevention 1122 in the Mendocino Unit. At  
2 approximately 4:30 PM I was assigned to protect the origin of the Valley Incident (15CALNU008670)  
3 at [REDACTED]  
4

5 Upon my arrival at the incident at 6:30 PM, I began to examine the area around the house at [REDACTED]  
6 [REDACTED] to look for a possible origin of the fire. The area around the house at [REDACTED]  
7 [REDACTED] was not the origin of the fire, based on my observation of macro-indicators, such as  
8 angle of char and damage differential, in the burned area. The macro-indicators guided my decision  
9 to continue driving along High Valley Road until I arrived at the house at 8015 High Valley Road.  
10 Along the drive from [REDACTED] to 8015 High Valley Road, I took photographs of  
11 vehicles, the general area, and the powerline infrastructure in the area.  
12

13 At 8015 High Valley Road, the macro-indicators of the fire's direction of travel led me to a probable  
14 general origin area around the house. Indicators, such as a "V" pattern and damage differential led  
15 me to include the wood shed on the south side of the house as a possible origin area, therefore I  
16 barricaded the area with flagging tape. After a walk-around of the house I interviewed the driver of  
17 Water Tender 7011, Zack RINDELLE at approximately 7:05 PM.  
18

19 Zack RINDELLE  
20 [REDACTED]  
21 Lakeshore Fire Department  
22

23 RINDELLE said a burned silver Toyota pickup truck that was parked approximately 100 feet  
24 northwest from the house had actually been parked near the shed at the southwest corner of the  
25 house. RINDELLE said no one was at the house when he drove up, however the engines had done  
26 work prior to his arrival. RINDELLE said while he was parked at the 8015 High Valley Road house,  
27 2 people visited the house that identified themselves as occupants of the house. RINDELLE  
28 described the 2 people as a female in her 50's, white, with grey hair and a white male in his 50's with

**SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATION REPORT**

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
LEVIN (REV. 7/2011)

INCIDENT NUMBER	18CAL1N008870					
CASE NAME	VALLEY					
CASE NUMBER	UNIT	REGION	COUNTY	YEAR	DATE	MONTH
18CAL1N008870	LN1	CMR	LAKE	2018	12	SEPT

On Saturday, September 15, 2018 I was assigned as Prevention 1122 in the Mendocino Unit. At approximately 4:30 PM I was assigned to protect the origin of the Valley Incident (18CAL1N008870)

[REDACTED]

Upon my arrival at the incident at 6:30 PM, I began to examine the area around the house at [REDACTED] to look for a possible origin of the fire. The area around the house at [REDACTED] was not the origin of the fire, based on my observation of macro-indicators, such as angle of char and damage differential, in the burned area. The macro-indicators guided my decision to continue driving along High Valley Road until I arrived at the house at 8015 High Valley Road. Along the drive from [REDACTED] to 8015 High Valley Road, I took photographs of vehicles, the general street, and the powerline infrastructure in the area.

At 8015 High Valley Road, the macro-indicators of the fire's direction of travel led me to a probable general origin area around the house. Indicators, such as a "V" pattern and damage differential led me to include the wood shed on the south side of the house as a possible origin area. Therefore, I participated the area with flagging tape. After a walk-around of the house, I interviewed the driver of Water Tender 7014, Zack RINDELLE at approximately 7:05 PM.

Zack RINDELLE

[REDACTED]

LakeShore Fire Department

RINDELLE said a burned silver Toyota pickup truck that was parked approximately 100 feet northwest from the house had actually been parked near the shed at the southwest corner of the house. RINDELLE said no one was at the house when he drove up, however the engine had done work prior to his arrival. RINDELLE said while he was parked at the 8015 High Valley Road house,

3 people visited the house that identified themselves as occupants of the house. RINDELLE described the 3 people as a female in her 50's, white, with grey hair and a white male in his 50's who

1 grey hair. RINDELLE said the 2 were married. After the first couple visited, RINDELLE said a  
2 second couple visited the house at 8015 High Valley Road. RINDELLE describe the couple as a  
3 younger male in his 20's or 30's and an "East Indian" female in her 20's or 30's. RINDELLE said  
4 both couples said they wanted to "check the place out."  
5

6 Based on RINDELLE's interview and my observation of the indicators of the fire, I decided the entire  
7 property of 8015 High Valley Road should be flagged off and closed, securing the property at the  
8 driveway with a section of barricade tape. I walked the perimeter of the property in a clockwise, then  
9 counter-clockwise pattern. I followed indicators such as angle of char, foliage freeze, stem-fall,  
10 protection, and staining of rocks that allowed me to narrow down my search for the origin to 2  
11 general areas. One general area was around a fully-consumed debris pile and the other general  
12 area was near the wood shed on the south side of the house.  
13

14 At approximately 8:00 PM, I interviewed a neighbor, Kelly FLETCHER, one of the first people at the  
15 8015 High Valley Road House after the start of the fire.  
16

17 Kelly FLETCHER

18 [REDACTED]  
19 [REDACTED]  
20 [REDACTED]  
21 [REDACTED]

22  
23 FLETCHER gave me information on the property owners in the neighborhood. FLETCHER said the  
24 "OSTRANDER's" owned the house uphill of the 8015 house and said that it had burned down. I  
25 drove up to the location in FLETCHER's jeep and confirmed it had burned down. FLETCHER  
26 described to me the size of the fire when FLETCHER first saw it. FLETCHER said the fire was  
27 burning the OSTRANDER's house and covered the area downhill to the 8015 house and out to the  
28 [REDACTED] house. FLETCHER said the wood shed at the 8015 house was burning, and  
29 could not remember if the debris pile at 8015 was burning or not. FLETCHER said he did not see  
30 any debris burning in the neighborhood that day, or at any time in the previous few days.

31 FLETCHER told me Dan BENNET lives at the [REDACTED] house. FLETCHER said he  
32 and Robert STARK tried to extinguish the fire along the southern fence of the 8015 house while the  
33 fire department was arriving at scene of the fire. FLETCHER said he though STARK was at the fire

1 before he arrived. FLETCHER gave me STARK's phone number and described him as working for  
2 the Cobb water company. FLETCHER's wife, Gerry FINN, is a retired employee of Cal Fire and  
3 worked at Boggs Mountain State Forest.

4  
5 At Approximately 8:45 PM, I interviewed Fire Captain Bill BAUMAN from Engine 1487, the first  
6 engine at the 8015 High Valley Road House.

7  
8 Billy BAUMAN  
9 Cal Fire – LNU -Middletown  
10 Fire Captain  
11 Engine 1487 (first engine at the 8015 house)

12  
13 Billy BAUMAN walked around the house with me at 8015 High Valley Road and assisted in  
14 describing the fire conditions. BAUMAN said was part of a high dispatch to a vegetation fire at [REDACTED]  
15 [REDACTED] BAUMAN said the fire was not yet across the creek and bridge near the [REDACTED]  
16 house. BAUMAN said there was heavy fire near the [REDACTED] house and he continued to drive around  
17 to the 8015 house. When BAUMAN arrived at the 8015 house, the fire was burning the wood pile  
18 under the shed at the southwest corner of the house and the tool shed was just starting to catch fire.  
19 The Toyota pickup was parked near the tool shed, the front facing High Valley Road, and the drivers  
20 door was approximately where the engine crew cut a hole in the wall of the tool shed. BAUMAN  
21 said he could not remember the direction the wind was blowing howvere he remembers hearing the  
22 Report on Conditions and that a west wind was indicated. BAUMAN said Battalion Chief Joe  
23 BALDWIN was at the house in the early stages of the fire taking photographs.

24  
25 At approximately 9:40 PM I interviewed Robert STARK on the phone. STARK was with FLETCHER  
26 when the attempted to suppress the fire in it's early stages at the 8015 High Valley Road house.

27  
28 Robert STARK

29 [REDACTED]  
30 [REDACTED]  
31 [REDACTED]

1 before he arrived. FLETCHER gave me STARK's phone number and described him as working for  
2 the Cobb water company. FLETCHER's wife, Gerry FIRM, is a retired employee of Cal Fire and  
3 worked at Boggs Mountain State Forest.

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5 At approximately 8:45 PM, I interviewed Fire Captain Bill BAUMANN from Engine 1487, the first  
6 engine at the 8015 High Valley Road house.  
7  
8  
9  
10 Fire Captain  
11 Engine 1487 (first engine at the 8015 house)

12  
13 Billy BAUMANN walked around the house with me at 8015 High Valley Road and assisted in  
14 describing the fire conditions. BAUMANN said that a fire dispatch to a vegetation fire at  
15 BAUMANN said the fire was not yet across the creek and bridge near the  
16 house. BAUMANN said there was heavy fire near the house and he continued to drive around  
17 to the 8015 house. When BAUMANN arrived at the 8015 house, the fire was burning the wood pile  
18 under the shed at the southwest corner of the house and the tool shed was just starting to catch fire.  
19 The Toyota pickup was parked near the tool shed, the front facing High Valley Road, and the driver's  
20 door was approximately where the engine crew cut a hole in the wall of the tool shed. BAUMANN  
21 said he could not remember the direction the wind was blowing however he remembers hearing the  
22 Report on Conditions and that a west wind was indicated. BAUMANN said Battalion Chief Joe  
23 BALDWIN was at the house in the early stages of the fire taking photographs.

24  
25 At approximately 9:40 PM I interviewed Robert STARK on the phone. STARK was with FLETCHER  
26 when the attempt to suppress the fire in its early stages at the 8015 High Valley Road house.

27  
28 Robert STARK  
29  
30  
31  
32

1 STARK said he saw the OSTRANDER cabin on fire and drove down to the 8015 house to assist in  
2 suppressing the fire. STARK said Cal Fire was already at scene and a Cal Fire firefighter in yellow  
3 was scraping a fire line around a burn pile with a McLeod. STARK said the fire was also burning the  
4 wood pile at the southeast corner of the house. STARK said he and FLETCHER attempted to  
5 extinguish the fire along the fence on the south side of the house.  
6

7 At approximately 10:10 PM I measured the weather at the 8015 house. The weather data was:

8 Temperature: 72.5° F  
9 Relative Humidity: 26.3%  
10 Dew Point: 37.3°F  
11 Wind Direction: West  
12 Wind Speed: 1.3 MPH  
13 Maximum Wind Gust: 1.9 MPH  
14 Elevation: 2394 feet  
15

16 At Approximately 10:30 PM I interviewed Engineer Josh JONES, the operator of Engine 6221.  
17

18 Josh JONES  
19 Cal Fire – LNU – Station #62  
20 Fire Apparatus Engineer  
21 [REDACTED]  
22

23 JONES said when he arrived at scene Copter 104 said the fire was 2 acres with a potential for 20  
24 acres. JONES said the wind was coming from the southwest. JONES took the Division A  
25 supervisor position as the fire expanded and said BAUMAN took the Division X supervisor position.  
26

27 At approximately 11:00 PM I interviewed Eric CHRISTENHUSE, a resident of the gated community  
28 that the 8015 High Valley Road house is a part of.  
29

30 Eric CHRISTENHUSE  
31 [REDACTED]  
32 [REDACTED]  
33 [REDACTED]

1 STARK said he saw the OSTRANDER cabin on fire and drove down to the 8015 house to assist in  
2 suppressing the fire. STARK said Cal Fire was already at scene and a Cal Fire firefighter in yellow  
3 was carrying a fire line around a pump pile with a McLeod. STARK said the fire was also burning the  
4 wood pile at the southeast corner of the house. STARK said he and FLETCHER attempted to  
5 extinguish the fire along the fence on the south side of the house.

6  
7 At approximately 10:10 PM I measured the weather at the 8015 house. The weather data was:

8 Temperature: 72.8°F  
9 Relative Humidity: 26.3%  
10 Dew Point: 37.3°F  
11 Wind Direction: West  
12 Wind Speed: 1.3 MPH  
13 Maximum Wind Gust: 1.9 MPH  
14 Elevation: 2394 feet

15 At approximately 10:30 PM I interviewed Engineer Josh JONES, the operator of Engine 8221.

16  
17  
18 Josh JONES  
19 Cal Fire - LNU - Station 882  
20 Fire Apparatus Engineer

21  
22  
23 JONES said when he arrived at scene Copter 104 said the fire was 2 acres with a potential for 20  
24 acres. JONES said the wind was coming from the southwest. JONES took the Division A  
25 supervisor position as the fire expanded and said BAUMAN took the Division X supervisor position.

26  
27 At approximately 11:00 PM I interviewed Eric CHRISTENHUSE, a resident of the gated community  
28 that the 8015 High Valley Road house is a part of.

29  
30 Eric CHRISTENHUSE  
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CHRISTENHUSE said he was not home at the time of the fire, arriving in the High Valley Road area hours after the fire had started. CHRISTENHUSE said a week prior to the fire a homeowner had been in an altercation with a guy on an ATV and the gate to the gated community was ripped open in the process. CHRISTENHUSE said he does not normally come down this far on High Valley Road to know if anyone was burning debris recently in the area.

At approximately 6:00 AM on September 13, 2015 I walked along a 600 foot length of the powerlines running adjacent to the house at 8015 High Valley Road and did not observe any downed lines until approximately the 600 foot mark to the east of the house. The downed powerlines displayed signs that they fell after the fire had started. The signs included the fire hose that was underneath the powerline, indicating the powerline fell after the fire crew passed underneath the powerline. Also, the macro-indicators indicated the area the downed powerlines were in had been in the advancing area of the fire. I marked the area around the downed powerlines with hazard flagging tape.

At approximately 9:20 AM, I requested the St. Helena Emergency Command Center to run the license plate number of the silver Toyota Tacoma found in the driveway of the 8015 High Valley House in order to find the name of the registered owner. The Tacoma did not have a vehicle registration card or proof of insurance in the glove box. The Tacoma was damaged by the fire on the left, rear side and tailgate. The lumber rack of the truck was loaded with 2x4" redwood lumber at th time of the fire, an inmate handcrew unloaded the lumber and 4 gasoline cans from the truck in the early stages of the fire. The cab of the truck contained various tools, including a circular saw blade. The information regarding the Tacoma and the return from the license plate inquiry was:

- Make/Model: 2007 Toyota Tacoma Extra Cab Pickup Truck
- Color: Silver
- Other Description: Prerunner V-6 SR5 TRD, "Fremont Auto Mall / Fremont Toyota" license plate frame.
- License Plate #: CA 8A63128
- VIN: 5TETU62N87Z369518
- Registered Owner: John PINCH
- Registered Address: 8015 High Valley Road



CHRISTENSEN said he was not home at the time of the fire, arriving in the High Valley Road area  
 hours after the fire had started. CHRISTENSEN said a week prior to the fire a homeowner had  
 been in an altercation with a guy on an ATV and the gate to the gated community was tipped over in  
 the process. CHRISTENSEN said he does not normally come down this far on High Valley Road  
 to know if anyone was burning debris recently in the area.

At approximately 6:00 AM on September 13, 2015 I walked along a 800 foot length of the powerlines  
 running adjacent to the house at 8018 High Valley Road and did not observe any downed lines until  
 approximately the 600 foot mark to the east of the house. The downed powerlines displayed signs  
 that they fell after the fire had started. The signs included the fire hose that was underneath the  
 powerline, indicating the powerline fell after the fire crew passed underneath the powerline. Also,  
 the macro-indicators indicated the area the downed powerlines were in had been in the advancing  
 area of the fire. I marked the area around the downed powerlines with hazard tagging tape.

At approximately 9:20 AM, I requested the St. Helena Emergency Command Center to run the  
 license plate number of the silver Toyota Tacoma found in the driveway of the 8018 High Valley  
 House in order to find the name of the registered owner. The Tacoma did not have a vehicle  
 registration card or proof of insurance in the glove box. The Tacoma was damaged by the fire on  
 the left, rear side and tailgate. The lumber rack of the truck was loaded with 2x4 redwood lumber at  
 the time of the fire, an inmate handcrew unloaded the lumber and 4 gasoline cans from the truck in  
 the early stages of the fire. The cab of the truck contained various tools, including a circular saw  
 blade. The information regarding the Tacoma and the return from the license plate inquiry was:

Model:	2007 Toyota Tacoma Extra Cab Pickup Truck
Color:	Silver
Other Description:	Premier V-6 2R5 TRD, "Premier Auto Mall / Fremont Toyota" license plate frame
License Plate #:	CA 8A3422
VIN:	5TETU82N87339818
Registered Owner:	John PINCH
Registered Address:	8018 High Valley Road

1 Cobb, CA

2  
3 At approximately 10:15 AM I measured the weather the geographic coordinates at the 8015 High  
4 Valley Road house. The weather data was:

5  
6 Temperature: 74.7° F  
7 Relative Humidity: 48.6%  
8 Dew Point: 54.5°F  
9 Wind Direction: West  
10 Wind Speed: 1 MPH  
11 Maximum Wind Gust: 1.2 MPH  
12 Elevation: 2394 feet  
13  
14 Latitude: N 38° 50.605'  
15 Longitude: W 122° 45.657'

16  
17 At approximately 11:00 AM I again talked with FLETCHER. FETCHER said many people live  
18 at the 8015 house and that John PINCH is one of them. John PINCH is the owner of the silver  
19 Toyota Tacoma. FLETCHER said the owner of the house is Parker MILLS.

20  
21 Parker MILLS  
22 Homeowner of 8015 High Valley Road

23 [REDACTED]  
24  
25 At approximately 12:00 PM I turned control of the origin over to Battalion Chief M. THOMPSON  
26 (B124) and departed the scene for the Mendocino Unit at 5:00 PM.

27  
28 END OF REPORT  
29  
30

PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	BADGE NUMBER	DATE
J. Schnaidt		3001	9/12/2015



# SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATION REPORT

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
LE 71 (REV. 7/2011)

INCIDENT NUMBER
15CALNU008670
CASE NAME
VALLEY
UNIT
CASE NUMBER

DAY	MONTH	DATE	YEAR	COUNTY	REGION	UNIT	CASE NUMBER
Sat	Sept	12	2015	Lake	CNR	LNU	

1 On Monday, September 14, 2015, at approximately 9:50 AM, while assigned to the investigation of  
 2 the "VALLEY FIRE", located in Lake County I interviewed Troy NELSON, self-identified, [REDACTED]  
 3 [REDACTED] NELSON was the first reporting party of the VALLEY Fire who called 911. The following is a  
 4 summary of the interview:  
 5

6 NELSON walked with me to where he lives in a garage at [REDACTED] He told me he was  
 7 in his house and the neighbor Jim, who lives on the same property, started yelling to call 911.  
 8 NELSON told me he ran outside to the corner of the garage and was able to see a light smoke  
 9 across the street.  
 10

11 NELSON began to run up the road where he came to the corner of the fence of the property across  
 12 the street. He told me he could see smoke and flames directly behind the house of 8015 High Valley  
 13 Rd. He told me the flames were only a couple inches tall, and as they progressed away from the  
 14 house they were approximately two feet flame lengths. He told me the smoke was light in color and  
 15 light in general, not charged or billowing, but wispy.  
 16

17 NELSON told me he ran to the house and attempted to extinguish the fire on the right side of it. He  
 18 told me the fire was backing through this area and had not come in contact with the shed adjacent to  
 19 the residence. He described the fire as a low intensity fire that was backing from the backside of the  
 20 residence around to the side he was attempting to extinguish.  
 21

22 NELSON told me he moved the wood furniture away from the house and attempted to extinguish a  
 23 wood pile against the house with a hose. NELSON told me he did not go to the rear of the house  
 24 because the fire was spreading from that direction. He described the right flank of the fire to be at  
 25 the corner of the garden fence.  
 26

27 NELSON told me the property is generally groomed and the dry grasses are kept short. He told me  
 28 the debris piles have been sitting for some time and they were not being burned the day of the fire.

1 He told me there were two vehicles in the driveway when he went to investigate the fire, one being a  
2 silver Toyota pickup and the other a green Jeep Wrangler. NELSON stated both vehicles are  
3 frequently at the residence and he believes they are the owners. He told me prior to him retreating  
4 he attempted to make contact with the occupants of the residence by pounding on the front door. He  
5 told me he was hitting it so hard, the door was gapping open. Nelson stated nobody responded to  
6 his attempt to notify them o the fire and he retreated to his residence.

7

8 End of report.

9

10

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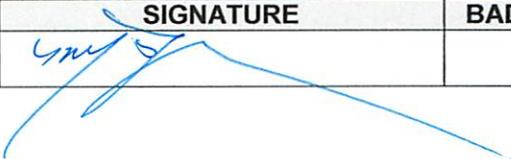
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30

PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	BADGE NUMBER	DATE
Michael THOMPSON		2451	9/14/2015

9c



# SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATION REPORT

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
LE 71 (REV. 7/2011)

INCIDENT NUMBER
15CALNU008670
CASE NAME
VALLEY
UNIT
CASE NUMBER

DAY	MONTH	DATE	YEAR	COUNTY	REGION	UNIT	CASE NUMBER
Sat	Sept	12	2015	Lake	CNR	LNU	

1 On Sunday, September 13, 2015, at approximately 3:50 PM, while assigned to the investigation of  
 2 the "VALLEY FIRE", located in Lake County I spoke with first in CAL FIRE Battalion Chief, Greg  
 3 BERTELLI. The following is a summary of what he told me:

4  
 5 BERTELLI told me he responded to 8015 High Valley Rd. for a reported vegetation fire. He told me  
 6 when he pulled in with his vehicle he could see fire going straight up behind the structure. He told  
 7 me the fire was making a strong push towards Bottle Rock from the left side of the structure.

8  
 9 He told me there was minimal fire in the shed adjacent to the right side of the structure and it was  
 10 still standing. BERTELLI told me the fire behavior was low intensity on the right side and higher  
 11 intensity to the left of the house pushing towards Bottle Rock Rd.

12  
 13 BERTELLI told me there was nobody at the residence when he arrived. He told me there two people  
 14 down the street waiving him up towards the fire.

15  
 16 End of report.

PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	BADGE NUMBER	DATE
Michael THOMPSON		2451	9/14/2015



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STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
LE 71 (REV. 7/2011)

INCIDENT NUMBER
15CALNU008670
CASE NAME
VALLEY
UNIT
CASE NUMBER

DAY	MONTH	DATE	YEAR	COUNTY	REGION	UNIT	CASE NUMBER
Sat	Sept	12	2015	Lake	CNR	LNU	

1 On Sunday, September 13, 2015, at approximately 3:56 PM, while assigned to the investigation of  
 2 the "VALLEY FIRE", located in Lake County I spoke with Andy ELLIOTT, self-identified. ELLIOTT  
 3 was on a ride along with Greg BERTELLI from the UK. The following is a summary of what he told  
 4 me:

5  
 6 ELLIOTT told me he went to the right side of the building and pulled a log pile away from the  
 7 structure which was burning. He told me the fire was burning on the right side of the residence and  
 8 burning up to the fence line. He told me the fire was back to the shed adjacent to the residence and  
 9 bumping the side of the residence.

10  
 11 ELLIOTT told me he scratched line around the right side of the building and the back of the building.  
 12 He told me he moved some debris away from both sides of the structure. ELLIOTT said the fire was  
 13 advancing up slope away from the structure and was backing around the right side of the structure.

14  
 15 ELLIOTT told me there was nobody on the property when they arrived and there was a vehicle next  
 16 to the shed which had since been moved. ELLIOTT confirmed it was a silver Toyota pickup that was  
 17 next to the shed and is currently in front of the residence.

18  
 19 End of report.

PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	BADGE NUMBER	DATE
Michael THOMPSON		2451	9/14/2015



# SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATION REPORT

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INCIDENT NUMBER
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CASE NAME
VALLEY
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CASE NUMBER

DAY	MONTH	DATE	YEAR	COUNTY	REGION	UNIT	CASE NUMBER
Sat	Sept	12	2015	Lake	CNR	LNU	

1 On Monday, September 14, 2015, at approximately 11:47 AM, while assigned to the investigation of  
 2 the "VALLEY FIRE", located in Lake County I interviewed Jim FULKERSON, self-identified, [REDACTED]  
 3 [REDACTED] FULKERSON saw the fire and told Troy NELSON to call 911 to report it. The following is a  
 4 summary of the interview:

6 FULKERSON told me he was in his motorhome at [REDACTED] He was sitting in the  
 7 recliner facing the front of the vehicle which faces [REDACTED] watching TV. He told me he  
 8 smelled smoke and looked past the television and could see light wispy smoke across the street.

10 FULKERSON told me he left his motorhome and went up the street to the corner of the fence of the  
 11 property across the street. He told me he could see the smoke and fire coming from behind the  
 12 home at 8015 High Valley Rd. He described the fire as being a low intensity fire with light smoke and  
 13 does not see anyone in the area.

15 FULKERSON tells me he sees two parts of the fire behind the house. He tells me it is up against the  
 16 house and across the drainage near the garden area. He told me he ran back to NELSON'S garage  
 17 on the same property he lives and told NELSON to call 911. FULKERSON told me he also called  
 18 911 to report the fire. He told me he did not go any closer to the fire than where he originally went to  
 19 investigate at the corner of the fence across the street.

21 End of report.

PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	BADGE NUMBER	DATE
Michael THOMPSON		2451	9/14/2015



# SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATION REPORT

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
LE 71 (REV. 7/2011)

INCIDENT NUMBER
15CALNU008670
CASE NAME
Valley
CASE NUMBER

DAY	MONTH	DATE	YEAR	COUNTY	REGION	UNIT	CASE NUMBER
SAT	SEP	12	2015	Lake	CNR	LNU	

1 (All times are approximate)

2

3 I was employed by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection as a Peace Officer on  
4 September 14, 2015. I was assigned to call a list of phone numbers of people who called to report  
5 an emergency in or near the community of Cobb California on September 12, 2015 between the time  
6 of 1:35 PM and 3:32 PM. Each call was made using my issued state cellular telephone.

7

8 At 12:06 PM I placed a call to [REDACTED] I did not speak with anyone. I left a message with my  
9 name, the agency I worked for, the reason for my phone call, and my contact telephone number.

10

11 At 1:42 PM I placed a call to [REDACTED] I did not speak with any one. I heard an automated  
12 voice stating the following "All circuits are busy please try your call again later".

13

14 At 1:43 PM I placed a call to [REDACTED] I did not speak with anyone. I left a message with my  
15 name, the agency I worked for, the reason for my phone call, and my contact telephone number.

16

17 At 2:23 PM I placed a call to [REDACTED] I did not speak with any one. I heard an automated  
18 voice stating the following "All circuits are busy please try your call again later".

19

20 At 2:38 PM I placed a call to [REDACTED] I did not speak with anyone. I left a message with my  
21 name, the agency I worked for, the reason for my phone call, and my contact telephone number.

22

23 At 4:36 PM I placed a call to [REDACTED] I did not speak with any one. I heard an automated  
24 voice stating the following "All circuits are busy please try your call again later".

25

26 At 4:37 PM I placed a call to [REDACTED] I did not speak with any one. I heard an automated  
27 voice stating the following "All circuits are busy please try your call again later".

28

1 At 4:40 PM I placed a call to [REDACTED] I did not speak with anyone. I left a message with my  
2 name, the agency I worked for, the reason for my phone call, and my contact telephone number.  
3

4 At 4:42 PM I placed a call to [REDACTED] I did not speak with anyone. I left a message with my  
5 name, the agency I worked for, the reason for my phone call, and my contact telephone number.  
6

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8 **END REPORT**

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PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	BADGE NUMBER	DATE
Kyle Steis	<i>Kyle Steis</i>	2125	09/15/2012



# SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATION REPORT

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
LE 71 (REV. 7/2011)

INCIDENT NUMBER
15CALNU008670
CASE NAME
Valley
UNIT
CASE NUMBER

DAY	MONTH	DATE	YEAR	COUNTY	REGION	UNIT	CASE NUMBER
SAT	SEP	12	2015	Lake	CNR	LNU	

1 (All times are approximate)

2

3 I was employed by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection as a Peace Officer on  
4 September 14, 2015. I was assigned to call a list of phone numbers of people who called to report  
5 an emergency in or near the community of Cobb California on September 12, 2015 between the time  
6 of 1:35 PM and 3:32 PM. Each call was made using my issued state cellular telephone.

7

8 At 2:53 PM I placed a call to [REDACTED] I spoke with Michael BOSSERT. In summary BOSSERT  
9 told me the following. BOSSERT called from [REDACTED] He looked  
10 across the street from his residence toward Adams Springs and saw a crap load of smoke. He called  
11 wondering if he needed to evacuate.

12

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14 . END REPORT

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PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	BADGE NUMBER	DATE
Kyle Steis	<i>Kyle Steis</i>	2125	09/15/2015



# SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATION REPORT

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
LE 71 (REV. 7/2011)

INCIDENT NUMBER
15CALNU008670
CASE NAME
Valley
UNIT
CASE NUMBER

DAY	MONTH	DATE	YEAR	COUNTY	REGION	UNIT	CASE NUMBER
SAT	SEP	12	2015	Lake	CNR	LNU	

1 (All times are approximate)

2

3 I was employed by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection as a Peace Officer on  
4 September 14, 2015. I was assigned to call a list of phone numbers of people who called to report  
5 an emergency in or near the community of Cobb California on September 12, 2015 between the time  
6 of 1:35 PM and 3:32 PM. Each call was made using my issued state cellular telephone.

7

8 At 4:44 PM I placed a call to [REDACTED] I spoke with an unidentified female. In summary the  
9 unidentified female told me the following. She did not call to report a fire. She called in a medical  
10 emergency at Raven Hill Park in Hidden Valley Lake.

11

12 .

13 **END REPORT**

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PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	BADGE NUMBER	DATE
Kyle Steis	<i>Kyle Steis</i>	2125	09/15/2015



# SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATION REPORT

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
LE 71 (REV. 7/2011)

INCIDENT NUMBER
15CALNU008670
CASE NAME
Valley
UNIT
CASE NUMBER

DAY	MONTH	DATE	YEAR	COUNTY	REGION	UNIT	CASE NUMBER
SAT	SEP	12	2015	Lake	CNR	LNU	

1 (All times are approximate)

2

3 I was employed by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection as a Peace Officer on  
4 September 14, 2015. I was assigned to call a list of phone numbers of people who called to report  
5 an emergency in or near the community of Cobb California on September 12, 2015 between the time  
6 of 1:35 PM and 3:32 PM. Each call was made using my issued state cellular telephone.

7

8 At 2:24 PM I placed a call to [REDACTED] I spoke with Caikanya WEST. In summary WEST told  
9 me the following. She was driving with her boyfriend on Gifford Springs Road and saw a fire burning  
10 in a field on the right side of the road. The fire was burning in a round shape. The fire was 20 to 30  
11 feet in diameter. Previous to seeing the fire on Gifford Springs she observed the fire burning on  
12 Bottle Rock road.

13

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15 **END REPORT**

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PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	BADGE NUMBER	DATE
Kyle Steis	<i>Kyle Steis</i>	2125	09/15/2015



# SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATION REPORT

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
LE 71 (REV. 7/2011)

INCIDENT NUMBER
15CALNU008670
CASE NAME
Valley
UNIT
CASE NUMBER

DAY	MONTH	DATE	YEAR	COUNTY	REGION	UNIT	CASE NUMBER
SAT	SEP	12	2015	Lake	CNR	LNU	

1 (All times are approximate)

2

3 I was employed by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection as a Peace Officer on  
4 September 15, 2015.

5

6 **Transfer of audio files**

7 I transferred six digital audio files from a digital voice recorder I borrowed from CAL FIRE Battalion  
8 Chief Mike THOMPSON to a digital video disk on September 15, 2015 at 2:37 PM. I made a second  
9 digital video disk using the same process. I did not alter the voice recording during this process. I  
10 labeled the digital video disk with the LNU incident number, incident name and date, my name with  
11 badge number. One disk was labeled "master" the other disk labeled "copy".

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15 **End of report**

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PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	BADGE NUMBER	DATE
Kyle Steis	<i>Kyle Steis</i>	2125	09/17/2015



# SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATION REPORT

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
LE 71 (REV. 7/2011)

INCIDENT NUMBER
15CALNU008670
CASE NAME
Valley
UNIT
CASE NUMBER

DAY	MONTH	DATE	YEAR	COUNTY	REGION	UNIT	CASE NUMBER
SAT	SEP	12	2015	Lake	CNR	LNU	

1 (All times are approximate)

2

3 I was employed by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection as a Peace Officer on  
4 September 17, 2015. I conducted a follow up interview with Bonnie BURNS [REDACTED]

5

6 At 1:04 PM I placed a call to [REDACTED] I spoke with Bonnie BURNS. In summary BURNS told  
7 me the following. On the afternoon of Tuesday September 15, 2015 BURNS and her boyfriend  
8 Jaime CHANEY were at Kelseyville High School in Kelseyville, California waiting to try to get into  
9 Cobb to retrieve their cats. While waiting at the school Chip WHITEHEAD approached their vehicle  
10 and asked if they knew how the fire started. They said no. WHITEHEAD told them he was there  
11 when it started. He told them the fire started around 1:00 PM at a big white house on Bottle Rock  
12 Road from a lawn mower. They had a 15 minute conversation. WHITEHEAD got in his vehicle and  
13 left.

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16 **END REPORT**

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PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	BADGE NUMBER	DATE
Kyle Steis		2125	09/17/2015



# SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATION REPORT

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
LE 71 (REV. 7/2011)

INCIDENT NUMBER
15CALNU008670
CASE NAME
Valley
UNIT
CASE NUMBER

DAY	MONTH	DATE	YEAR	COUNTY	REGION	UNIT	CASE NUMBER
SAT	SEP	12	2015	Lake	CNR	LNU	

1 (All times are approximate)

2

3 I was employed by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection as a Peace Officer on  
4 September 17, 2015. I was assigned to conduct a follow up interview with Jaime CHANEY

5 [REDACTED]

6

7 At 12:25 PM I placed a call to [REDACTED] I spoke with Jaime CHANEY. In summary CHANEY  
8 told me the following. On the afternoon of Tuesday September 15, 2015 CHANY and his girlfriend  
9 Bonnie BURNS were at Kelseyville High School in Kelseyville, California waiting to try to get into  
10 Cobb to retrieve their cats. While waiting at the school a guy approached them and told them he was  
11 there from the beginning of the fire. He told CHANEY and BURNS that he saw the fire start, the fire  
12 started on Bottle Rock Road at a white mansion from a lawn mower. He told them his name was  
13 Chip WHITEHEAD. CHANEY looked up WHITEHEAD on line and determined he had a landscape  
14 business in Petaluma, CA.

15

16 On September 16, 2015 CHANEY contacted WHITEHEAD at his business to encourage him to  
17 report the information he had about the fire. WHITEHEAD changed his story. He told CHANEY that  
18 the fire started in Hidden Valley from a meth lab exploded and that's why it is called the Valley Fire.

19

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21 **END REPORT**

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PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	BADGE NUMBER	DATE
Kyle Steis	<i>Kyle Steis</i>	2125	09/17/2015



# SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATION REPORT

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
LE 71 (REV. 7/2011)

INCIDENT NUMBER
15CALNU008670
CASE NAME
Valley
UNIT
CASE NUMBER

DAY	MONTH	DATE	YEAR	COUNTY	REGION	UNIT	CASE NUMBER
SAT	SEP	12	2015	Lake	CNR	LNU	

1 (All times are approximate)

2

3 I was employed by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection as a Peace Officer on  
4 September 17, 2015. I was assigned to conduct a follow up interview with Hope SANDERS

5 [REDACTED]

6

7 At 12:50 PM I placed a call to [REDACTED] I did not speak with anyone. I left a message with my  
8 name, the agency I worked for, the reason for my phone call, and my contact telephone number.

9 I placed the telephone call using my issued state cellular telephone

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12 **END REPORT**

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PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	BADGE NUMBER	DATE
Kyle Steis	<i>Kyle Steis</i>	2125	09/17/2015



# SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATION REPORT

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
LE 71 (REV. 7/2011)

INCIDENT NUMBER
15CALNU008670
CASE NAME
Valley
UNIT
CASE NUMBER

DAY	MONTH	DATE	YEAR	COUNTY	REGION	UNIT	CASE NUMBER
SAT	SEP	12	2015	Lake	CNR	LNU	

1 (All times are approximate)

2

3 I was employed by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection as a Peace Officer on  
4 September 17, 2015.

5

6 **Transfer of audio files**

7 I transferred two digital audio files from a digital voice recorder I borrowed from CAL FIRE Fire  
8 Captain Specialist Gary UBOLDI to a digital video disk on September 17, 2015 at 1:49 PM. I made a  
9 second digital video disk using the same process. I did not alter the voice recording during this  
10 process. I labeled the digital video disk with the LNU incident number, incident name and date, my  
11 name with badge number. Both disks were labeled "copy".

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15 **End of report**

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PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	BADGE NUMBER	DATE
Kyle Steis	<i>Kyle Steis</i>	2125	09/17/2015



# SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATION REPORT

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
LE 71 (REV. 7/2011)

INCIDENT NUMBER
15CALNU008670
CASE NAME
Valley
UNIT
CASE NUMBER

DAY	MONTH	DATE	YEAR	COUNTY	REGION	UNIT	CASE NUMBER
SAT	SEP	12	2015	Lake	CNR	LNU	

1 (All times are approximate)

2

3 I was employed by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection as a Peace Officer on  
4 September 14, 2015. I was assigned to conduct an interview with the crew of South Lake County  
5 Fire Protection District fire engine 6221. The two person crew was made up of CAL FIRE Fire  
6 Apparatus Engineer Paramedic Joshua JONES and CAL FIRE Fire Apparatus Engineer Paramedic  
7 Jacob JUAREZ.

8

9 At 11:16 AM I met with CAL FIRE Fire Apparatus Engineer Paramedic Jacob JUAREZ (FAEP  
10 Juarez). In summary FAEP JUAREZ told me the following. FAEP JUAREZ and Josh JONES  
11 responded to the fire in Engine 6221 from South Lake County Fire Protection District Station 62 in  
12 Cobb, CA. JONES was driving engine 6221.

13

14 While in route to the fire FAEP JUAREZ noticed a grey smoke column. Engine 6221 was directed by  
15 CAL FIRE Battalion Chief 1418 to take the first drive way after the bridge and start a progressive  
16 hose lay. JONES backed the fire engine into the driveway and started a progressive hose lay. The  
17 fire was approximately two to three acres in size increasing in size at a moderate rate. The fire was  
18 burning in grassy oak woodlands. The wind was approximately two to three mile per hour out of the  
19 west. The fires predominant direction was east.

20

21 While driving into the fire FAEP JUAREZ noticed a 2008 or 2009 Chevy Silverado extended cab  
22 parked on the left hand side of the road with its hazard lights on and no occupant around. FAEP  
23 JUAREZ ended up moving the vehicle.

24

25 The wind shifted direction and the hose lay was abandoned.

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28 **END REPORT**

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PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	BADGE NUMBER	DATE
Kyle Steis	<i>Kyle Steis</i>	2125	09/17/2015



# SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATION REPORT

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
LE 71 (REV. 7/2011)

INCIDENT NUMBER
15CALNU008670
CASE NAME
Valley
UNIT
CASE NUMBER

DAY	MONTH	DATE	YEAR	COUNTY	REGION	UNIT	CASE NUMBER
SAT	SEP	12	2015	Lake	CNR	LNU	

1 (All times are approximate)

2

3 I was employed by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection as a Peace Officer on  
4 September 14, 2015. I was assigned to conduct an interview with the crew of South Lake County  
5 Fire Protection District fire engine 6221. The two person crew was made up of CAL FIRE Fire  
6 Apparatus Engineer Paramedic Joshua JONES and CAL FIRE Fire Apparatus Engineer Paramedic  
7 Jacob JUAREZ.

8

9 At 10:54 AM I met with CAL FIRE Fire Apparatus Engineer Paramedic Joshua JONES (FAEP  
10 JONES). In summary FAEP JONES told me the following. Jake JUAREZ and FAEP JONES  
11 responded to the fire in engine 6221 from South Lake County Fire Protection District Station 62 in  
12 Cobb, CA.

13

14 Traveling down Bottle Rock Road FAEP JONES noticed a light grey column of smoke with some  
15 dark grey smoke in the middle of the column. CAL FIRE Battalion Chief 1418 and CAL FIRE  
16 helicopter 104 were at scene prior to arrival. When he arrived at the fire on High Valley Road the fire  
17 was approximately four acres in size. He backed engine 6221 into a drive way on the south side of  
18 High Valley Road west of the bridge and prepared for a hose a lay. While pulling in to the drive way  
19 FAEP noticed a tan Chevy 2500 extended cab diesel pickup truck parked on the side of the road  
20 with its emergency flashers on and no one in or around the truck.

21

22 When FAEP JONES exited 6221 he noticed the fire was backing toward him. A hose lay was started  
23 on the left flank of the fire. He described the weather as mid 80's and light wind to his back. A short  
24 time later the winds and fire behavior changed. The hose lay was abandoned and the engine was  
25 moved to High Valley Road.

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28 **END REPORT**

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PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	BADGE NUMBER	DATE
Kyle Steis	<i>Kyle Steis</i>	2125	09/17/2015



# SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATION REPORT

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
LE 71 (REV. 7/2011)

INCIDENT NUMBER
15CALNU008670
CASE NAME
Valley
UNIT
CASE NUMBER

DAY	MONTH	DATE	YEAR	COUNTY	REGION	UNIT	CASE NUMBER
SAT	SEP	12	2015	Lake	CNR	LNU	

1 (All times are approximate)

2

3 I was employed by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection as a Peace Officer on  
4 September 16, 2015. I met with CAL FIRE Chief James ENGEL (Chief ENGEL) at the Ramada Inn  
5 in Williams, California. At 2:40 PM Chief ENGEL transferred custody of evidence item 1 and 2 to me.  
6 Both items were loaded into the camper shell of my issued work truck. I secured both items in the  
7 locked camper shell and transported both items to the CAL FIRE evidence lock up in Santa Rosa,  
8 California. At 7:45 PM I entered evidence item 1 and 2 into the CAL FIRE Santa Rosa evidence lock  
9 up.

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12 **END REPORT**

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PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	BADGE NUMBER	DATE
Kyle Steis	<i>Kyle Steis</i>	2125	09/17/2015



# SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATION REPORT

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
LE 71 (REV. 7/2011)

INCIDENT NUMBER
15CALNU008670
CASE NAME
Valley
UNIT
CASE NUMBER

DAY	MONTH	DATE	YEAR	COUNTY	REGION	UNIT	CASE NUMBER
SAT	SEP	12	2015	Lake	CNR	LNU	

1 (All times are approximate)

2

3 I was employed by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection as a Peace Officer on  
4 September 20, 2015. I was assigned to conduct an investigation into a spot fire located outside the  
5 fire perimeter on Division H also known as the BUNCE Ranch. CAL FIRE Forester II Louis  
6 SCIOCCHETTI (Forester SCIOCCHETTI) was the Division Group Supervisor on Division H the night  
7 of September 13, 2015.

8

9 At 4:00 PM I met with Forester SCIOCCHETTI at drop point 70 at the Valley Fire. I asked Forester  
10 SCIOCCHETTI about the events that led up to the spot fire on Division H. In summary Forester  
11 SCIOCCHETTI told me the following. On the night of September 13, 2015 the Valley Fire was  
12 progressing toward the BUNCE Ranch. In an effort to preserve the farm house and out buildings on  
13 the ranch, approval was given to Magnus JONSON and his task force to fire out around the farm  
14 house. The firing operation created the 6.6 acre spot fire in Division H.

15

16 Forester SCIOCCHETTI filled out, signed and dated in blue ink a three page CAL FIRE LE 78.

17

18

19 **END REPORT**

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PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	BADGE NUMBER	DATE
Kyle Steis	<i>Kyle Steis</i>	2125	09/21/2015



# WITNESS STATEMENT

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
LE 78 (REV. 7/2011)

INCIDENT NUMBER
CA LNU 8670
CASE NAME

DAY	MONTH	DATE	YEAR	COUNTY	REGION	UNIT	CASE NUMBER
20 Sunday	9	20	2015	Lake	Northern	LNU	

STATEMENT OF:	Louis Sciocchetti, MEU FOR II		
DOB:	[REDACTED]	ID TYPE/NUMBER:	[REDACTED]
ADDRESS:	[REDACTED]		
CITY:	[REDACTED]	PHONE:	[REDACTED]
LOCATION:	Valley Inc., 22000 Butts Canyon Rd, DP 70, DIV J		

1 I, Louis Sciocchetti, freely and voluntarily give this statement to  
 2 Kyle Steis, who is known to me as an Investigator with the California  
 3 Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. For Valley Inc shift 9-13-15 to  
 4 9-14-15, DIV G, BR II, Hwy 29 to Grange Rd to Bunce Ranch,  
 5 I was DIVS for two TFs of local govt engines. The Valley Inc  
 6 was in the second day, there was no perimeter control on  
 7 the SE-E-NE side of the fire — Livermore Ranch N to  
 8 Hidden Valley to Spruce Grove Rd. All Valley Inc  
 9 resources were focused on locating & preventing further  
 10 structure loss and mitigating pockets of heat and  
 11 assisting citizens as necessary. DIV G did not have  
 12 any Dozers or Water Tenders or hand crews. TF STA CROS  
 13 (TF1) consisted of Magnus Jansson as STL, w/ trainee  
 14 Craig Hassey, and E-306, E-7121, E-103, E-111, E-212, &  
 15 E-209, all from TGU. DIV G extended from Grange Rd/  
 16 Noyes Ranch Rd N to Hartmann Rd. Noyes Ranch  
 17 Rd terminates at a residence known as the Bunce  
Ranch, a complex of a 100-yr old + Farm house,

Witness Signature: Louis Sciocchetti      Date: 9-20-2015      Time: 2300

INVESTIGATOR PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	BADGE NUMBER	DATE



WITNESS STATEMENT LFS - Continued

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
LE 78a (REV. 7/2011)

Pg (2)

INCIDENT NUMBER
CA LNU 8670
CASE NAME

DAY	MONTH	DATE	YEAR	COUNTY	REGION	UNIT	CASE NUMBER
Sunday	9	20	2015	Lake	Northern	LNU	

1 several large barns & shops, several smaller residences  
 2 and numerous outbuildings, located in a canyon west  
 3 of the confluence of an un-named watercourse and Putah  
 4 Creek. The ranch was in the green, the residents had been  
 5 evacuated, and the perimeter of the main fire was  
 6 approximately 1/2 mile to the west. Based on the rate  
 7 of perimeter advancement, the high value of the ranch,  
 8 the nature of the fuels surrounding the ranch (grass/  
 9 oak woodland), the defensible nature of the ranch, the  
 10 weather conditions at the time, the availability of  
 11 TF1 engines & personnel, the desire to prevent further  
 12 structure loss in the area (Luchetti Ranch to the west  
 13 had lost 3 residences and two large barns), and the  
 14 expertise of two CAL FIRE personnel experienced with  
 15 the application of Rx fire, Magnus Jonsson (RA) TCU,  
 16 and myself, former LNU UMP Coordinator/FOR I  
 17 (1994-2000), it was decided to fire a perimeter defined by  
 18 defensive space along the Bance Ranch structures and  
 19 a constructed hand line (by TF-1 personnel) located  
 20 upslope on the NW-N-NE. The Rx burn was initiated  
 21 @ 1900 on the 13th and terminated @ approx 1950.  
 22 Weather @ 1845 was DB 82°, RH 39%, Winds 0-1 mph.  
 23 fuels were FM1, cattle-grazed short annual, fully-  
 24 cured grass. Flame heights 1-4 ft, avg 1-2 ft. The  
 25 Rx burn was supported by a hose lay and four of

*Joan J... ..*

9-20-2015

2300

Witness Signature

Date

Time



WITNESS STATEMENT

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
LE 78 (REV. 7/2011)

INCIDENT NUMBER
CASE NAME

DAY	MONTH	DATE	YEAR	COUNTY	REGION	UNIT	CASE NUMBER
Sunday	9	20	2015	Lake	Northern	LNU	

STATEMENT OF:			
DOB:		ID TYPE/NUMBER:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		PHONE:	
LOCATION:			

1 I, \_\_\_\_\_, freely and voluntarily give this statement to  
 2 \_\_\_\_\_, who is known to me as an Investigator with the California  
 3 Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. \_\_\_\_\_

4 TF1 engines. A safety briefing was conducted @  
 5 1845 w/ DIV 6 + STL TF1. A post-burn briefing was  
 6 also conducted. BR was notified prior to the burn but  
 7 communications on the COM channel were poor at that  
 8 location. TF1 engines remained at the Bunce Ranch until  
 9 0730 the following morning. The Rx burn area was  
 10 checked @ 2200 h on the 13th and 0600 on the 14th.  
 11 The entire burn area was cold. Incoming DIV 6 resources  
 12 were briefed on the Rx burn operation and status, as  
 13 well as structure defense intel. for the Bunce Ranch.

14  
 15 → Ignition method consisted of drip torches and fuseses.  
 16  
 17

Witness Signature <i>Joris Jervich</i>	Date 9-20-2015	Time 2300	
INVESTIGATOR PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	BADGE NUMBER	DATE



# SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATION REPORT

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
LE 71 (REV. 7/2011)

INCIDENT NUMBER
15-CA-LNU-008670
CASE NAME
VALLEY
UNIT
CASE NUMBER
LNU 15CALNU008670

DAY	MONTH	DATE	YEAR	COUNTY	REGION	UNIT	CASE NUMBER
TH	09	24	2015	LAKE	CNR	LNU	15CALNU008670

1 **SUMMARY:**

2 On Thursday, September 24, 2015, I was requested to follow-up on a Twitter Post sent on  
3 September 22, 2015, from @ANTHoney88. @ANTHoney88 wrote statement, "Look what I found  
4 on the way to School". After all the Effort that was put in the #ValleyFire@CALFIRE\_CHIEF".  
5 Attached to the statement were two photographs. Each photograph appeared to have a paper  
6 matchbook positioned in natural vegetation.

7 @ANTHoney88 was later positively identified as Anthony Scott OSTROSKIE. OSTROSKIE  
8 current address was [REDACTED] On Thursday, September 24, 2015, I  
9 arrived at the above address. A white male adult (herein "WMA") answered the front door and I  
10 provided the WMA my law enforcement identification and asked to speak with OSTROSKIE. I  
11 was told OSTROSKIE was riding his "BMX" bicycle. Persons at the residence told me  
12 OSTROSKIE was mentally challenged and may have difficulty understanding questions I had. I  
13 provided the persons my departmental cellular telephone number and requested a telephone call  
14 when OSTROSKIE returned home. I left the residence. I crossed [REDACTED] and saw a WMA on  
15 a BMX who I positively identified as OSTROSKIE from his California Department of Motor Vehicle  
16 Photograph. I called to the WMA, "Anthony" and he stated, "Yes". I asked him if I could talk with  
17 him and he agreed. OSTROSKIE and I walked up to the front door and his family walked outside.

18 I asked OSTROSKIE if he remembered writing a statement on Twitter regarding a fire.  
19 OSTROSKIE told me he did. OSTROSKIE told me he left his school in Jackson and saw the  
20 match book on the ground and wanted to let the fire department know. OSTROSKIE told me he  
21 properly disposed of the matchbook so it would not be used to start fires.

22 OSTROSKIE's family told me he was a student at the local high school. The family informed me  
23 the school had a trade program for mentally challenged students. OSTROSKIE confirmed with  
24 me his school was the same location where he found the matchbook.

25 OSTROSKIE's family informed me he did not have access to a vehicle and they drove him to  
26 various locations that were too far to travel on his BMX. I asked the family when the last time  
27 OSTROSKIE left the lone area by vehicle. The family told me they drove OSTROSKIE to a

1 friend's home in Valley Springs, California approximately 2 weeks prior. OSTROSKIE's family  
2 told me he had not left the lone area prior to his travel to Valley Springs for several months.  
3 Valley Springs is approximately thirty miles south of lone.

4 It was apparent to me OSTROSKIE had a cognitive deficit. I concluded my interview with  
5 OSTROSKIE and the family.

6 #####

7  
8  
9 **SUBJECT**

10 Anthony Scott OSTROSKIE



17 *Communicated with CAL FIRE via social media site, Twitter*

18  
19  
20 **ATTACHEMENTS:**

21  
22 A. CAL FIRE E-mail communication

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30

PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	BADGE NUMBER	DATE
CHRIS VAN COR		2405	9-24-15



Anthony  
@ANThoney88



Follow

Look what I found on my way to School.  
After all the Effort that was put in the  
#ValleyFire 🙌 @CALFIRE\_CHIEF



4:01 PM - 22 Sep 2015



Reply to @ANThoney88 @CALFIRE\_CHIEF

### Trends

#EasyThrowback Promoted by Google Photos #PopInDC Yogi Berra #BiSummit  
#firstdayoffall #ONA15 #NationalPunctuationDay #MyFirst #TGIT #facebookdown  
#MinaStampede



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LE 71 (REV. 7/2011)

INCIDENT NUMBER
15CALNU008670
CASE NAME
VALLEY
UNIT
CASE NUMBER

DAY	MONTH	DATE	YEAR	COUNTY	REGION	UNIT	CASE NUMBER
Sat	Sept	12	2015	Lake	CNR	LNU	

1 On Thursday, October 1, 2015, at approximately 1:30 PM, I spoke with John CARLISI at his  
 2 residence, [REDACTED] who told me his wife Polly NYBERG saw the smoke and told him  
 3 there was a fire down below. CARLISI told me he took his Toyota 4runner down to the fire across  
 4 the street from his driveway. He told me one of his neighbors, identified as Troy NELSON located at  
 5 [REDACTED] was already there when he arrived. NELSON told him nobody was there at  
 6 the residence where the fire was located.

8 CARLISI told me he began honking his horn trying to alert anyone who may have been inside. He  
 9 told me he used a garden hose to extinguish some of the flames. CARLISI told me he moved the  
 10 hose to the side of the house and soaked the wood pile that was adjacent to the house. He told me  
 11 the fire was already to the fence line near the right side of the house.

13 CARLISI told me after a few minutes of being there, CAL FIRE resources showed up and he left the  
 14 area.

16 End of report.

PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	BADGE NUMBER	DATE
Michael THOMPSON		2451	10/1/2015



# SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATION REPORT

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
LE 71 (REV. 7/2011)

INCIDENT NUMBER
15CALNU008670
CASE NAME
Valley
CASE NUMBER

DAY	MONTH	DATE	YEAR	COUNTY	REGION	UNIT	CASE NUMBER
Mon	Sept	14	2015	Lake	CNR	LNU	

1 On Monday, September 14, 2015 I called and conducted interviews with the initial 911 calls reporting  
2 the Valley Fire. The following are the phone number and times for the  
3  
4 12:09 PM. I called [REDACTED] The call could not be completed.  
5  
6 12:11 PM. I called [REDACTED] The call could not be completed.  
7  
8 1:45 PM. I called [REDACTED] The phone number was disconnected.  
9  
10 1:48 PM. I called [REDACTED] The phone number was disconnected.  
11  
12 1:51 PM. I called [REDACTED] The phone number was to a fax machine.  
13  
14 1:53 PM. I called [REDACTED] I spoke to an unknown person that did not report the fire.  
15  
16 2:15 PM. I called [REDACTED] I talked to a man that identified YEIM. He told me the following in  
17 summary; he called to report a fire in the Loch Lomond area. He said he was calling from Loch  
18 Lomond and saw the fire. He said the smoke was traveling from right to left looking from Lock  
19 Lomond towards the fire.  
20  
21 2:39 PM. I called [REDACTED] I talked to a male that identified himself as Timothy CRAIG. He  
22 told me the following in summary; He called 911 to report a fire at Gifford springs road at whispering  
23 pines road. He said he was at his house off [REDACTED] and his friend ADAM told his to call  
24 911 because there was a fire in the field across the street. He said while he was running to the fire  
25 some lady told him "it was the arson". His friend ADAM told him he saw a tall Caucasian male in the  
26 area. He described the fire as being a strip or a line in the field. He said he didn't see any ash or  
27 embers from the other fire in the area so he was pretty convinced someone set the fire. He told me

1 he stayed at his house until the firefighters told them they had to leave. He said the fire from bottler  
2 rock had burned across Highway 175 and he drove through fire on his way to Middletown.

3  
4 4:13 PM. I called [REDACTED] I left a voicemail on the answering machine.

5  
6 4:15 PM. I called [REDACTED] The mailbox was full and I was unable to leave a message.

7  
8 4:17 PM. I called [REDACTED] The phone number was disconnected.

9  
10 4:19 PM. I called [REDACTED] The phone number was disconnected.

11  
12 4:21 PM. I called [REDACTED] The phone number was disconnected.

13  
14 4:26 PM. I called [REDACTED] I talked to a female that identified herself as Nana GELOVANI. She  
15 said she only saw smoke. She was camping at [REDACTED] She said she  
16 didn't see the fire until later on her drive home.

17  
18  
19 4:46 PM. I called [REDACTED] The phone number was disconnected.  
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PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	BADGE NUMBER	DATE
RUSSELL WEST	<i>Russell West</i>	2893	10/2/15



# SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATION REPORT

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
LE 71 (REV. 7/2011)

INCIDENT NUMBER
15CALNU008670
CASE NAME
Valley
UNIT
CASE NUMBER

DAY	MONTH	DATE	YEAR	COUNTY	REGION	UNIT	CASE NUMBER
Mon	Sept	14	2015	Lake	CNR	LNU	

1 On Monday, September 14, 2015 I called and conducted interviews with the initial 911 calls reporting  
 2 the Valley Fire. The following are the times, phone numbers, and information I gathered from the  
 3 interviews.

4  
 5 1:49 PM I called [REDACTED] The phone number was disconnected.

6  
 7 4:44 PM. I called [REDACTED] The phone number was disconnected.

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PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	BADGE NUMBER	DATE
Russell West	<i>Russell West</i>	2893	10/4/2015



# SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATION REPORT

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
LE 71 (REV. 7/2011)

INCIDENT NUMBER
15CALNU8670
CASE NAME
Valley
CASE NUMBER

DAY	MONTH	DATE	YEAR	COUNTY	REGION	UNIT	CASE NUMBER
Sat	Sept	12	2015	Lake	CNR	LNU	

1 On Thursday, September 17, 2015, I received information from CAL FIRE Battalion Chief Mike  
 2 THOMPSON, of a person accused of setting a "backfire" at highway 29 and butts canyon road on  
 3 Saturday, September, 12, 2015. The information I received said in summary; Sargent Jason  
 4 KRAUSE from the Rohnert Park Department of Public Safety was at scene with Lake County Sheriff  
 5 Deputies the night the incident occurred. KRAUSE was preparing a report of what happened and I  
 6 received his contact information. I called KRAUSE on Thursday, September 17, 2015, he told me he  
 7 would have his written report of what happened completed by morning, and I agreed to meet him the  
 8 following day at his office in Rohnert Park.

9  
 10 On Friday, September 18, 2015, I met KRAUSE at the Rohnert Park Department of Public Safety  
 11 headquarters. KRAUSE completed a written statement of what happened and told me the following  
 12 in summary. On Saturday, September 12, 2015, he received a telephone call from his wife, of a fire  
 13 in the Cobb area. KRAUSE said on his way home he was driving on highway 29 at Butts Canyon  
 14 Road, he saw Lake County Sheriff Deputies parked along the roadway with his father in-law  
 15 (Richard COSETTI) in handcuffs. He parked his vehicle and identified himself as a Rohnert Park  
 16 Sargent and identified the male in handcuffs as his father in-law. He could tell COSETTI had been  
 17 drinking. KRAUSE told me the deputy told him witnesses saw CORSETTI set a fire along highway  
 18 29 at Butts Canyon Road.

19  
 20 On Saturday, September 19, 2015, I contacted Lake County Sheriff Deputy ROCHESTER.  
 21 ROCHESTER is the deputy at scene with COSETTI when he was accused of setting the "backfire".  
 22 ROCHESTER told me the following in summary; he was driving northbound on highway 29 on  
 23 Saturday, September 12, 2015, and was flagged down bystanders saying they saw a man  
 24 (COSETTI) start a fire on highway 29 at Butts Canyon Road. ROCHESTER said he detained  
 25 COSETTI while he conducted his investigation. ROCHESTER searched COSETTI's person and  
 26 found no devices that could start a fire. Due to the Valley Fire burning in the area and lack of  
 27 evidence found on CORSETTI, Officer ROCHESTER didn't take any action on CORSETTI.

28

1 On Sunday, September 20, 2015, I talked to CAL FIRE Battalion Chief, Mike MARCUCCI.  
2 MARCUCCI told me the following in summary; he was requested to respond to the incident from the  
3 CAL FIRE Santa Clara Unit. He arrived at scene at approximately 8:30 PM and was assigned to the  
4 area of Grange Road to Lower Lake. On his way to the area he was responsible for he was flagged  
5 down by a Lake County Sheriff Deputy. The deputy told MARCUCCI he had a guy accused of  
6 setting a fire and needed CAL FIRE Law Enforcement to respond. MARCUCCI made the request for  
7 CAL FIRE Law Enforcement, but none were available in the area. MARCUCCI went to South Lake  
8 County Fire Station 60 and told the Incident Commander of the situation. MARCUCCI then  
9 continued on with his original assignment

10  
11 On Sunday September 20, 2015 I talked to Sonoma Valley Fire Rescue Authority Division Chief Bob  
12 NORRBOM. NORRBOM told me while on his way to his assignment he was flagged down by a Lake  
13 County Sheriff Deputy. The deputy told NORRBOM he detained a man accused of setting a  
14 "backfire". NORRBOM told me the man was later released and was not taken into custody.

15  
16 On Wednesday, September 23, 2015, I went to COSETTI's house located at [REDACTED]  
17 [REDACTED] I talked to COSETTI and he told me the following in summary; he was talking a nap the  
18 afternoon of September 12, 2015. He was woken up by a friend calling him to inform him about the  
19 fire in the Cobb area (Valley Fire). He told me he received a ride from a friend to help move a vehicle  
20 away from the fire off of Santa Rosa Road in Middletown. He told me when he got to the house in  
21 Middletown the fire was in the area. He told me he got worried about his property and left the  
22 Middletown house to his house on [REDACTED] He told me he didn't have a ride back home  
23 so he ran back towards his house. COSETTI told me when he got to highway 29 and Butts Canyon  
24 Road three men in a vehicle yelled at him he started the fire. COSETTI told me he thought they were  
25 talking about the big fire that was coming from Cobb. He said a police officer pulled up next to the  
26 men accusing him of setting the fire. The officer placed COSETTI in handcuffs and turned him  
27 around. COSETTI told me when the officer turned him around he saw the other fire that was burning  
28 alongside Highway 29 and Butts Canyon Road. COSETTI told me the officer searched him and did  
29 not find any devices that could start a fire. COSETTI told me the officer let him go without talking any  
30 action.

31  
32 Due to not having any witness contact information and the Valley fire in the area, I am unable to  
33 determine if COSETTI set a "back fire".

1 \*\*\*end of report\*\*\*

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PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	BADGE NUMBER	DATE
Russell WEST		2893	10/4/2015

The following report outlines an off-duty incident which occurred on September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015, at approximately 1845 hours, during the early stages of the Valley Fire. The location was Highway 29 at intersection with Butts Canyon road just north of Middletown.

### Witness Statement

On September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015, at approximately 1700 hours I received a telephone call from my wife, Jillian. She called to advise on the movement the Valley Fire had made towards the Middletown area and that she was concerned. I could hear in her voice that she was concerned. I advised her I was on my way and to start loading the car for possible evacuation. At approximately 1730 hours I reached Tubbs lane (Calistoga area) and received another call from my wife. During this call she was scared and described how close the fire was. I advised her to take the baby to a neighbor's house (the neighbor is a tenured Santa Rosa Fire Department employee).

I reached Middletown at approximately 1830 hours. The town was chaotic, people were panicking and trying to evacuate south on highway 29. I could see active fire to the west of town on the ridge and observed significant wind conditions. I called my wife and verified she and our baby were with our neighbors. I proceeded through town and was stopped by an emergency road block northbound 29 at Butts Canyon Road. I briefly spoke with fire personnel at that location and learned the fire was actively burning along Hwy 29 between Middletown and Hidden Valley Lake. Based on information and observed fire conditions I determined I would not be able to get to my family on Highway 29. I returned to Middletown to try and reach my wife via telephone and evaluate possible alternative routes to Hidden Valley Lake area. I could reach my wife, but could not maintain a cellular connection.

At this point the conditions in Middletown had deteriorated. Traffic was backed up in several directions; people were crying and screaming asking for help. The fire along 175 appeared to be quickly advancing towards the town.

Realizing my movements would be limited by the fire and traffic, I drove back to the area of 29 and Butts Canyon to see if the head of the fire had moved through making it possible for me to get through. Once at the intersection I observed Lake County Sherriff Deputies directing traffic and appropriately stopping people from heading north on Hwy 29 towards Hidden Valley Lake. At this time it was dark.

Of note here, the roadway in this area has two options for redirecting traffic. Traffic can be sent east on Butts Canyon Road or southeast on St. Helena Creek Rd, which travels at an angle between Butts Canyon Road and Highway 29, back to Middletown.

As I sat in traffic at this location, I looked to the right and observed a male subject struggling with deputies and I could hear him yelling at the deputies. The subject was handcuffed. I immediately recognized the subject as my father-in-law, Richard Corsetti ("Rich"). I looked

back at the conditions on Hwy 29 and decided not to drive to Hidden Valley Lake. I parked my vehicle out of the roadway and contacted a deputy standing about 20' feet from Rich.

I advised the deputy he was my father-in-law and that I was a Rohnert Park Police Sergeant. The Deputy told me three witnesses said he started the fire. I was shocked to hear this news. I asked, "That fire"-pointing towards the body of fire consuming Hwy 29 north of Middletown. He replied no, "that fire." He directed me towards a 15'x15' spot fire along St. Helena Creek Rd, between the road and Hwy 29. I had observed that fire as I initially approached the area, and believed it to be a spot fire resulting from the wind.

I looked back over to Rich and could hear him being belligerent with the officers and refusing to answer questions. At one point, it looked like he had tried to spit on one or bite him, and three deputies were restraining him. I went over to Rich and tried to calm him down. I explained to him that his daughter and granddaughter were still in harm's way. He cut me off and said "fuck that" and other derogatory comments centered on his circumstances. I stopped speaking to him at this point.

I backed off 20' or so and watched the fire. As I was standing there with a deputy, a subject pointed at Rich and said he started the fire, pointing to the aforementioned spot-fire that was rapidly growing up the ladder fuels towards the upper canopy of large Oak trees. The deputy told the subject to talk to me. The subject told me he saw "that man" (pointing to Rich) kneeling over and starting the fire. Again, I was shocked to hear this. The witness did not appear to know Rich and at no time did he call him by name. The witness was a white male, sixties, and over 6ft tall. I had no further contact with him. I was more concerned about getting to my wife and daughter than conducting a fire investigation.

I went back to Rich and asked him why someone said he started the fire. He said he did not know. He said he went to Cobb to help people, and then was asked to help people in Middletown, which is why he was in the area. He said he was upset because the fire was heading toward his home along Butts Canyon Road. His observations were correct; the fire appeared to be rapidly heading towards his home along Butts Canyon Road.

While I was standing there, a young deputy began indicating to me that I was trying to get my Father-in-law out of custody. I made it very clear to the young deputy that was not the case and that I was in no way interfering with their business. I also said my only concern was my wife and daughter.

The fire behavior at this point was extreme. Wind was changing directions and the fire was moving towards our location. The fire appeared to be a flank or the head of another large fire. Behind us, the aforementioned spot fire was now in the canopy along St. Helena Creek Road. Several cars were backed up along St. Helena Creek Rd, directly below the burning canopy. The deputies were extremely busy monitoring radio traffic, responding to rescues, dealing with

potential victims at our location, providing information to panicked people looking for loved ones, and still dealing with Rich.

Realizing the people along St. Helena Creek Road were in immediate danger, I took control of the intersection of 29 and St. Helena Creek Road. I cleared 29 of a couple cars, then stopped the remainder of cars, and directed the cars on St. Helena Creek Road to drive out to southbound 29 towards Middletown. By this time the fire had fully consumed the canopy just a few feet from the roadway at Butts and 29. There were what appeared to be power lines near the fire and there was a large volume of unburned fuel. I approached a deputy (he may have been a Sergeant) and said we needed to go, and move everyone back. I think he had already recognized this and was starting the process.

During this time the deputies tried to conduct their investigation involving Rich, along with prioritizing life safety at this scene, asses overall fire conditions, and were monitoring what sounded like in-progress rescues. Finally, the Sergeant on scene (or senior deputy) asked if I could identify Rich, locate him if need be, and get him out of here. I said yes. I provided my contact information to a deputy and another deputy handed Rich to me handcuffed. I told the deputy I was not taking his in- custody. The deputy un-handcuffed Rich and said get him out of here.

Rich and I drove to Middletown Bible Church parking lot where I called my wife again. I told her I could not get to her, and to evacuate with our baby through lower lake, and meet me at the Rohnert Park Department of Public Safety. While I was talking to Jillian, Rich left the area on foot. I do not know where he went.

Since this incident I have heard through family that Rich is available for contact by investigators if needed. I can assist with facilitating contact if need be.

Also, my wife, Jillian Corsetti and I, are available to assist authorities in this matter any time, day or night.

It should be noted I notified my chain of command of this incident the night of the incident, and will provide them a memo with this witness statement as an attachment.

Contact Information-

Jason Krauss and Jillian Krauss

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

*J K #364 9/18/15*

**STATEMENT OF EVENT ON 09/12/15 at aprox. 1900hrs**

While enroute to my assignment as Division H I was flagged down by a Lake County Sherriff's deputy who advised me that he had detained an individual accused of setting a "backfire" on Hwy 29 on the cemetery property at the intersection of Butts Canyon Rd. I observed a small fire starting to climb the hill below the cemetery, right off the shoulder of Hwy 29. The deputy advised me that he had a witnesses stating the individual that he had detained started this fire. At this time the main fire was still approximately ½ mile away and travelling in a southerly direction. I attempted to obtain resources to engage in extinguishment, however none were available. I witnessed this new fire run up slope into Black Oak Estates, destroying at least one home in its path. The new fire and the main fire eventually joined each other, further down Butts Canyon Rd.

I do not have an address for this home, as the fire destroyed any markings, however it is right next to the cell tower. The cell tower did sustain damage to the equipment attached to it as well.

**Bob Norrbom**

**DIVS**





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LE 71 (REV. 7/2011)

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15CALNU008670
CASE NAME
Valley
UNIT
CASE NUMBER

DAY	MONTH	DATE	YEAR	COUNTY	REGION	UNIT	CASE NUMBER
Sat	Sept	12	2015	Lake	CNR	LNU	

1 At 1640 hrs. on Saturday September 12, 2015 I was dispatched as an Operations Branch  
2 Director (OPBD) to the Valley Incident 15CALNU8670 with a report location of Middletown. At  
3 approximately 1830 hrs. I arrived at the South Lake County Fire Protection District (FPD) Station 60  
4 and was briefed by Operations Section Chief (OSC1) Todd Derum. OSC1 Derum assigned me to  
5 Branch II which would extend from Grange Rd North to the community of Lower Lake. While en  
6 route to my assignment with Division Chief Bob Norbom of the Sonoma County Fire Department I  
7 was flagged down by a Lake County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) Deputy on Highway 29 near the  
8 intersection of Butts Canyon Road and Saint Helena Creek Road. The LCSO Deputy advised me  
9 that he had detained a subject that had reportedly started a back fire along Saint Helena Creek  
10 Road. From my observation I could see that the fire was becoming well established on both sides of  
11 the road and that some of the trees were beginning to torch.

12 The Deputy requested that I send a CAL FIRE Law Enforcement Officer to assist; I advised  
13 him that we did not have any available with the complexity of the incident we were working. At that  
14 point I returned to South Lake County Fire Protection District Station 60 in Middletown to meet with  
15 Incident Commander (IC) Linda Green. IC Green was with a Sargent with LCSO and I advised them  
16 of the situation on Highway 29. Prior to my return to the scene I was directed to respond to Hidden  
17 Valley Lake to direct fire operations therefore I did not have any additional contact with the original  
18 Deputy.

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PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	BADGE NUMBER	DATE
Michael E. Marcucci		2136	09/20/2015



# SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATION REPORT

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
LE 71 (REV. 7/2011)

INCIDENT NUMBER
15CALNU008670
CASE NAME
VALLEY
UNIT
CASE NUMBER
N/A

DAY	MONTH	DATE	YEAR	COUNTY	REGION	UNIT	CASE NUMBER
Friday	Nov	6	2015	Lake	CNR	LNU	N/A

1 On Friday November 6, 2015 I met with Phil MURPHY at his residents located at [REDACTED]  
2 [REDACTED] in the community of Lakeport, CA. The meeting was a follow up to possible information  
3 regarding the Valley fire. MURPHY told me over the phone the day before that he had information  
4 regarding what had started the Valley fire in Cobb. MURPHY told me he was a credentialed reporter  
5 for an online news paper and a writer for a Mendocino county newspaper called the Anderson Valley  
6 Advertiser. While he was reporting on the fire he interviewed a man by the name of Josh NELSON  
7 on October 11, 2015. NELSON told MURPHY that he knew what had started the fire and proceeded  
8 to show MURPHY a shard of broken glass alone side the street in the drainage ditch. MURPHY told  
9 me NELSON picked up the shard of glass and showed it to him and then placed it back on the  
10 ground. MURPHY then took a picture of the glass shard. MURPHY provided me with the picture he  
11 took during our meeting. MURPHY told me he believes that broken shard of glass may have started  
12 the fire due to it magnifying the sun's rays to start the fire. After telling me his information MURPHY  
13 proceeded to question me on the progress of the investigation. Based on my training and  
14 experiences I believe that MURPHY's theory for how the fire started is unfounded and needs no  
15 further investigation. Additionally I believe that MURPHY's true intent to meet with me was not to  
16 hand over fruitful information and was a ruse to try to extract information regarding the fire  
17 investigation so he could report it. I declined to provide MURPHY with the information he requested  
18 and thanked MURPHY for his time. I advised MURPHY that I would contact him if we need and  
19 further information.

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PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	BADGE NUMBER	DATE
Gary M. Uboldi		2814	11-6-15







# SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATION REPORT

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
LE 71 (REV. 7/2011)

INCIDENT NUMBER
15CALNU008670
CASE NAME
Valley
UNIT
CASE NUMBER
N/A

DAY	MONTH	DATE	YEAR	COUNTY	REGION	UNIT	CASE NUMBER
Friday	Nov	6	2015	Lake	CNR	LNU	N/A

1 On Friday November 6, 2015 I met with Maria WELSH outside her place of work at the [REDACTED]  
2 [REDACTED] located at [REDACTED] in the community of Clearlake, CA. WELSH had  
3 contacted the CALFIRE Arson Hotline and said that she had been told information from one of her  
4 clients at her hair salon that said they knew who started the Rocky and Valley fires in Lake County.  
5 WELSH's client was David BURGESS. WELSH was able to provide me with BURGESS's first and  
6 last name. WELSH did not have BURGESS's phone number or address. WELSH described  
7 BURGESS as a white male 40 to 50 years old, with dirty blonde curly hair that could possibly be in a  
8 ponytail. BURGESS also has heterochromia, a condition causing his eyes to be different colors.  
9 WELSH believe that BURGESS suffers from some type post-traumatic stress disorder, due to the  
10 fact that he has trouble communicating with others. I asked WELSH if BURGESS had any tattoos  
11 that she could have seen or if he had been in the military. WELSH said BURGESS never talked  
12 about military service or has seen and tattoos. BURGESS told WELSH that he lived in a tent on 30  
13 acres that belonged to his sister, who he did not give a name, possibly in Lower lake. WELSH said  
14 that BURGESS did not drive and needed to arrange a ride every time that he came to get his hair  
15 cut. WELSH said that BURGESS speaks with a possible southern accent.  
16 WELSH told me that her client BURGESS told her the following in summary. His (BURGESS)  
17 nephew, Cole NICHOLSON was bragging to him about starting the Valley, Rocky and several other  
18 fires in attempt to collect on the insurance payments. NICHOLSON told BURGESS that his reason  
19 was to burn down his grandparents' house so the "feds" would build them a better one. NICHOLSON  
20 told BURGESS that he was setting the fires with propane bomb triggered by a water heater.  
21 BURGESS said that NICHOLSON's sister Kelly who he (BURGESS) didn't give her last name to  
22 WELSH was driving NICHOLSON around to set the fires. BURGESS described NICHOLSON sister  
23 Kelly's car as a silver compact car. BURGESS told WELSH that he never did see BURGESS  
24 actually set the fires but did notice that NICOLSON and his sister Kelly were absent from his  
25 property on Saturday prior to the Valley fire and returned after the fire had started. BURGESS told  
26 WELSH that NICHOLSON, and his sister Kelly were lighting fires with a group of six or eight other  
27 20 year olds for the same reasons. BURGESS told WELSH that NICHOLSON threatened him with a  
28 defamation of character law suit if he told anyone about him (NICHOLSON) starting the fires. I asked

1 WELSH if she had any ideas on the best way to get in contact with any of the three parties  
2 (BURGESS, NICHOLSON or his sister Kelly). WELSH said that on an earlier occasion at her salon  
3 BURGESS told her that NICHOLSON's mother regularly worked as prostitute at the Twin Pines  
4 Casino and we could possibly make contact with her to get to the other three. WELSH provided me  
5 with her written notes that she had made after the discussion with BURGESS that day. I asked  
6 WELSH to sign and date the notes with the date of our interview today.

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PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	BADGE NUMBER	DATE
Gary M. Uboldi		2814	11-06-2015



9/19/15

2:30-3pm Salon Client (HCT)

David Burgess 5'7"-5'10"

Dirty blonde hair - ponytail <sup>Short</sup> beard / <sup>mustache</sup>  
light colored eyes - mismatched in color

southern accent

white WMA

40-50 yrs

lives on 30 acre parcel

living in a tent currently (unknown location)

He knows who set the fires but didn't  
see him actually see him do it.Claims its Cole Nicholson and his  
sister Kelly who drove him to thelocations in her compact silver toned  
car (unknown make & model)Cole was bragging to him about  
setting a propane bomb that was  
triggered by the water heater (Rocky Fire)  
for the purpose of burning down his  
grandparents house so they could receive  
federal funds to build a better house.Also set other fires to do the same for  
his friends. David mentioned Colevisited his property. Cole threatened  
David with a defamation of character  
lawsuit if he should get in trouble.David said the timing of the Cobb (Valley)  
fire coincided with Cole leaving and

returning to his property. David thinks  
he's (Cole) making propane balloons (bombs)  
I encouraged David to contact law  
enforcement with details but he was  
apprehensive because he has difficulty  
formulating thoughts and communicating.  
He says he's told other people but I  
don't know who. ~~He~~ He also mentioned  
there are about 6-8 people <sup>(group)</sup> setting fires  
one of which maybe a relative of his, <sup>Wephew?</sup>  
Our conversation was partially overheard  
by another stylist in the salon - -  
Suzie Marsh.

Mania Welsz  
11/6/15



# SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATION REPORT

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
LE 71 (REV. 7/2011)

INCIDENT NUMBER
15CALNU008670
CASE NAME
VALLEY
UNIT
CASE NUMBER
LNU
N/A

DAY	MONTH	DATE	YEAR	COUNTY	REGION	UNIT	CASE NUMBER
SAT	SEPT	12	2015	LAKE	CNR	LNU	N/A

1 Boggs Mountain Evidence Storage Container  
 2 Damage / Lost Evidence Report  
 3

4 On Tuesday September 22, 2015 I was assigned to photograph damage sustained from the Valley  
 5 fire (15CALNU008670) to a CALFIRE Fire Prevention Evidence Storage Container. The evidence  
 6 container is located at the Boggs Mountain State Forest / Heli-attack base, [REDACTED]  
 7 [REDACTED] elevation of 3015' feet  
 8 above sea level. The evidence storage container is located on the perimeter of north / west side of  
 9 heli-attack base compound, north of the employee parking area. The evidence storage container  
 10 was located along the east side of a cargo semi-trailer that was being used to store equipment for  
 11 Boggs Mountain Heli-attack base. Evidence from three state responsibility fires; 15CALNU007900  
 12 (Peterson), 15CALNU008268 (Elk), and 15CALNU007963 (Grade) were stored inside the evidence  
 13 storage container. The container and all of its contents were destroyed beyond repair on September  
 14 12, 2015 during the Valley fire. I arrived at Boggs Mountain State Forest at 11:00 AM Tuesday  
 15 September 22, 2015. I saw what appeared to be what was left of a burned intermodal shipping  
 16 container. I saw the container and its contents had been destroyed by fire. I saw the front doors of  
 17 the evidence storage container sustained heat damage but remained attached to the frame of the  
 18 container, unlocked and partially opened. I saw the evidence container and its contents appeared to  
 19 have been disturbed by suppression efforts. I believe that unknown suppression personnel  
 20 sometime after the fire passed attempted to extinguish the burning remains of the container.  
 21 I was able to identify the remains of one ride on lawn mower that was collected from  
 22 15CALNU007900 (Peterson), evidence # RW-01 by CALFIRE Fire Captain Russell WEST. (See  
 23 photos img3403, img3404, img3407, img3413, and img3414). I was able to identify the mower by its  
 24 location in the container and photos provided to me from CALFIRE, Fire Captain Sims HAWKINS  
 25 who was with WEST at the time of collection. I spoke with HAWKINS on September 23, 2015.  
 26 HAWKINS told me that he had collected three pieces of evidence; one riding lawn mower (E-1) and  
 27 two rocks (E-2) that were found near the ignition area. Hawkins told me that WEST had placed

1 evidence (E-1 and E-2) in to the storage container. I was unable to locate the two rocks (E-2) that  
2 were collected as evidence from the Peterson fire.

3  
4 I was able to identify the remains of one lawn mower deck collected from 15CALNU008268 (Elk), by  
5 HAWKINS (See photo img3412).

6 In the middle of the container I was able to identify one push type mower collected from  
7 15CALNU007963 (Grade) by HAWKINS (See photo img3405, img3408, and img3410). I was unable  
8 to identify all three items by their serial numbers or evidence tags due to the degree of fire damage  
9 done to the equipment. (See photo img3415).

10 I instructed the remaining personnel at Boggs Mountain State Forest / Heli-attack base not to disturb  
11 the container or its contents until they get further direction from the prevention bureau.

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PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	BADGE NUMBER	DATE
Gary M. UBOLDI		2814	09/22/2015



# PHOTOGRAPHIC LOG

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
LE 75p (REV. 7/2011)

<b>INCIDENT NUMBER</b>
15CALNU008670
<b>CASE NAME</b>
VALLEY

DAY	MONTH	DATE	YEAR	COUNTY	REGION	UNIT	CASE NUMBER
SAT	SEPT	12	2015	LAKE	CNR	LNU	N/A

PHOTO ID	DATE TAKEN	TIME TAKEN	TAKEN BY	PHOTO DESCRIPTION
3397	09/22/15	11:45 AM	G. UBOLDI	Looking West at # 1-4 side of exterior of storage container.
3398	09/22/15	11:45 AM	G. UBOLDI	Looking South / West at # 4 side of exterior of storage container.
3399	09/22/15	11:45 AM	G. UBOLDI	Looking South at # 4-3 side of exterior of storage container.
3400	09/22/15	11:46 AM	G. UBOLDI	Looking South / East at # 3 side of exterior of storage container.
3401	09/22/15	11:46 AM	G. UBOLDI	Looking East at # 2 side of exterior of storage container
3402	09/22/15	11:46 AM	G. UBOLDI	Looking north at # 1-2 side of exterior of storage container
3403	09/22/15	11:46 AM	G. UBOLDI	Looking north thru front door # 1 side of storage container.
3404	09/22/15	11:48 AM	G. UBOLDI	Looking east at #2 side of storage unit south end of container.
3405	09/22/15	11:49 AM	G. UBOLDI	Looking east at #2 side of storage unit, middle of container.
3406	09/22/15	11:49 AM	G. UBOLDI	Looking east at #2 side of storage unit, north end of container.
3407	09/22/15	11:49 AM	G. UBOLDI	Looking east at south end interior of container. Ride on lawn mower remains.
3408	09/22/15	11:49 AM	G. UBOLDI	Looking east at middle of interior of container. Push mower remains.
3409	09/22/15	11:50 AM	G. UBOLDI	Looking west at south of interior of container. Ride on lawn mower & mowing deck remains.
3410	09/22/15	11:50 AM	G. UBOLDI	Looking west at middle of interior of container. Push mower remains
3411	09/22/15	11:50 AM	G. UBOLDI	Looking north / west at north end of interior of container.

PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	BADGE NUMBER	DATE
Gary Uboldi		2814	09/22/2015







Google earth

feet 400  
meters 100



E-2

9/12/2015

12:00 AM

G. UBOLDI # 2814

15CALNU008670

Valley



# SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATION REPORT

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
LE 71 (REV. 7/2011)

INCIDENT NUMBER
15CALNU008670
CASE NAME
VALLEY
UNIT
CASE NUMBER

DAY	MONTH	DATE	YEAR	COUNTY	REGION	UNIT	CASE NUMBER
Sat	Sept	12	2015	Lake	CNR	LNU	

1 On Tuesday, June 28, 2016, at approximately 12:37 PM, I called Douglas SCHISLER, self-identified,  
 2 DOB: [REDACTED] to return a voice message  
 3 he left in regards to the "VALLEY" Fire.

4  
 5 SCHISLER told me he had spoken with Coleen ZIMMERMAN, mother of Troy NELSON, several  
 6 times over the past few months and every time he spoke to her, she would make it a point to tell him  
 7 NELSON did not start the "VALLEY" Fire.

8  
 9 SCHISLER told me he thought it was odd she would tell him this so many times and he felt he  
 10 needed to relay the information.

11  
 12 I originally interviewed NELSON on September 14, 2015. NELSON was the first to call 911 to report  
 13 the fire. See associated LE-71 Supplemental Investigation report.

14  
 15 End of report.

PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	BADGE NUMBER	DATE
Michael THOMPSON		2451	6/28/2016



# SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATION REPORT

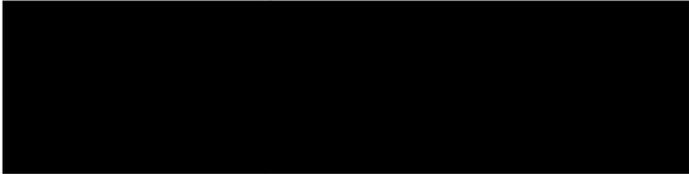
STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
LE 71 (REV. 7/2011)

INCIDENT NUMBER
15CALNU008670
CASE NAME
VALLEY
UNIT
CASE NUMBER

DAY	MONTH	DATE	YEAR	COUNTY	REGION	UNIT	CASE NUMBER
Sat	Sept	12	2015	Lake	CNR	LNU	

1 On Tuesday, July 26, 2016, at approximately 3:05 PM, I contacted Dana DEMARTIN at her  
 2 residence to collect the following information:

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 4 Name: Dana DEMARTIN



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 9 End of report.

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PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	BADGE NUMBER	DATE
Michael THOMPSON		2451	7/26/16



# SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATION REPORT

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
LE 71 (REV. 7/2011)

INCIDENT NUMBER
15CALNU008670
CASE NAME
VALLEY
UNIT
CASE NUMBER

DAY	MONTH	DATE	YEAR	COUNTY	REGION	UNIT	CASE NUMBER
Sat	Sept	12	2015	Lake	CNR	LNU	

1 On Tuesday, July 26, 2016, at approximately 2:04 PM, I contacted Darla NICOLSON, self-identified,  
 2 [REDACTED] who told me the following in summary.

3  
 4 On the day of the Valley Fire D. NICOLSON told me she had driven her son, Cole NICOLSON to  
 5 Hidden Valley and dropped him off. She told me her daughter, Kelly NICOLSON was at home  
 6 getting ready to go to work at Twin Pines Casino.

7  
 8 D. NICOLSON told me after dropping her son off and on her way back to her house she saw the  
 9 smoke on top of the mountain. She told me she continued home and arrived just as the evacuation  
 10 notice went out. She told me she immediately called her daughter at the casino to insure she was  
 11 okay. D. NICOLSON stated her daughter was already at work by time she arrived home.

12  
 13 D. NICOLSON told me the kids have two uncles, one of which is in a mental institute in Oakland,  
 14 CA. and the other is deceased. D. NICOLSON told me she and the kids have no relations t a Mr.  
 15 David BURGESS.

16  
 17 End of report.

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PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	BADGE NUMBER	DATE
Michael THOMPSON		2451	7/26/16