

1 **9 - NARRATIVE:**

2 On October 21, 2007 at approximately 12:29 PM W-4 Air Tanker Pilot Mike
3 VENABLE reported a vegetation fire near Highway 78 and Santa Ysabel. At
4 approximately 12:35 PM same date units from the California Department of Forestry
5 and Fire Protection were dispatched to a vegetation fire located near Highway 78
6 and Santa Ysabel, San Diego County. The Witch Fire merged with the Guejito Fire
7 and the fires eventually burned approximately 197,990 acres combined. During the
8 Witch Fire two civilian fatalities occurred and approximately forty fire fighters were
9 injured. Approximately 1,141 homes, 509 outbuildings and 239 vehicles were
10 destroyed during the fire. Additionally seventy-seven homes and twenty-five
11 outbuildings were damaged. Investigators are working to determine the perimeters
12 of the Witch and Guejito Fires and further identify the damages associated with
13 each fire.

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15 On October 21, 2007 I was assigned to respond to the Witch Fire to conduct an
16 origin and cause investigation. I arrived in the area and met with W-1 Glen
17 DROWN. DROWN informed me the fire had begun to the south of his residence,
18 near a power line road. Due to the fire conditions, I was unable to access the
19 Incident Command Post in Ramona via State Highway 78 and had to detour around
20 on State Highway 76. I arrived at the Incident Command Post later in the evening,
21 where I met with W-2 Fire Captain Eric JOHNSON. JOHNSON was assigned to the
22 initial dispatch to the Witch Fire and described the area to me where he had first
23 seen the fire. The area he described was located on the eastern perimeter of the
24 fire. I arrived in this area at approximately 12:30 AM, October 22, 2007. Due to
25 darkness, high winds, and being un-familiar with the area, I waited for sunrise to
26 begin my investigation.

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28 On October 22, 2007 at approximately 6:30 AM I began my investigation into the
29 origin and cause of the fire. I contacted O-1 Fire Captain Specialist Preston FOUTS
30 and requested he respond to my location to assist with the investigation.