

3

# EPIDEMIOLOGIC INVESTIGATION REPORT

1. CASE NUMBER 930929HWE5023		2. INVESTIGATOR'S ID 8320	
3. OFFICE CODE 860	4. DATE OF ACCIDENT 930707	5. DATE INITIATED 931109	

6. SYNOPSIS OF ACCIDENT OR COMPLAINT  
Two 2-year old children, twins, died in a structural fire believed to have been caused by a butane fire place or barbecue lighter of the type that can be operated by children of that age.

*CPSA 6 (b)(1) Cleared JSC*

*No Mfrs/Prvblrs or Products Identified*

*Excepted by ANPR*

*Firms Notified*

*Comments Processed*

*Jan 6/30/97*

7. LOCATION (Home, School, etc.) Home, 10	8. CITY Sacramento	9. STATE California, CA
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10A. FIRST PRODUCT Barbecue-type lighter 1247	10B. TRADE/BRAND NAME Unknown	10C. MODEL NUMBER Butane, specifies unknown
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10D. MANUFACTURER NAME AND ADDRESS  
Unknown

11A. SECOND PRODUCT None	11B. TRADE/BRAND NAME N/A	11C. MODEL NUMBER N/A
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11D. MANUFACTURER NAME AND ADDRESS  
N/A

12. AGE OF VICTIM 002	13. SEX Male 1	14. DISPOSITION Fatal 8	15. INJURY DIAGNOSIS Thermal burns 51
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16. BODY PART (S) INVOLVED All parts 85	17. RESPONDENT Offical documents 3	18. TYPE OF INVESTIGATION Official documents 3	19. TIME SPENT (OPERATIONAL HOURS) Five hours 5.0
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20. CATEGORY ID BUNNO1	21. CASE SOURCE Newspaper F395023 05	22. SAMPLE COLLECTION NUMBER None
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23. PERMISSION TO DISCLOSE NAMES (NON NEISS CASES ONLY)  
There is no signed document regarding the release of name  
YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

24. REVIEW DATE 931213	25. REVIEWED BY 8101	26. REGIONAL OFFICE DIRECTOR
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27. DISTRIBUTION  
O: EPDS cc: SFRO

Second victim: 12. 002; 13. 1; 14. Fatal, 8; 15. Thermal burns, 51;  
16. All parts, 85.

SOURCE:

The contents of this report are based on the fire investigation report and on the coroner's investigation report.

PRE:

Scene of the event is a one story single family residence fabricated of wood and a composition shingle roof. It consists of three bedrooms, two bathrooms, a living room, and a kitchen. The home is occupied by two adults and two children; the children are twins and aged 2 years, 11 months. At the time of the event the children were by themselves in the living room playing in the area of a sofa.

DURING:

The day was a Wednesday, time about 10:15 am. The children's mother, one of the two adults residing in the home, was in the front lawn area cleaning an automobile. A passing motorist stopped to advise her that her home was on fire. She immediately ran to the front door but could not get through because of intense heat. A few moments later, highway patrolmen came to assist. Shortly thereafter, a fire engine company arrived. Learning from the mother that her twins were inside, company personnel rushed inside only to find them expired.

POST:

The children were severely burned. Close to one of the bodies, fire personnel found a butane lighter of the type used to ignite fire place or barbecuing fuels, and the investigator further observed that the lighter was of the type that could be operated by children of that age. The lighter, they determined, had fallen to the floor early in the fire and had only subsequently melted.

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION:

Little description of the lighter is available. The lighter handle was melted, the barrel remained intact; the gas valve, made of brass, was in the handle melt. Investigators could not determine if the lighter was of the trigger or lever type.

LIST OF EXHIBITS:

Photographs:

1 through 60: The scene, courtesy of the fire department.

- Exhibit A: Fire incident report, 6 pages.
- B: Fire investigation report, 6 pages.
- C: Coroner's report, #1, 13 pages
- D: Coroner's report, #2, 12 pages

CA

BUNNO1

F395023 A

930929 HWE5023

Sacramento, CA  
(Sacramento Co.)  
Sacramento Bee  
(Cir. D. 233,290)  
(Cir. S. 274,100)

JUL 9 - 1993

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888



to County Fire Department spokeswoman Michelle Cummings.

"The lighter was found near the children," she said.

### Lighter found near fire victims

<sup>3569</sup>  
Sacramento County fire investigators said Thursday that the 2½-year-old twins who died Wednesday in a Foothill Farms house fire probably were playing with a cigarette lighter.

and [redacted] died in the midmorning fire as their mother, neighbors and California Highway Patrol officers tried in vain to get inside the blazing house.

Fire inspectors continued to probe the charred living room where the boys had been playing, according to Sacramen-



U. S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION  
WESTERN REGIONAL OFFICE

600 HARRISON STREET, ROOM 245, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94107-1370

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- MONTANA
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- NEVADA
- OKLAHOMA
- OREGON
- TEXAS
- UTAH
- WASHINGTON
- WYOMING
- PACIFIC ISLANDS

*County*  
Sacramento Fire Protection District  
3012 Gold Canal Dr.  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

September 29, 1993

Attn: Fire Prevention

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission is an agency of the Federal government responsible for the safety of products used in and around the home. We are investigating the residential fire that occurred in Foothill Farms on July 7, 1993. Two children died in the fire. A lighter was found near the children. We would appreciate a copy of the fire investigation report, including any photographs taken. Please advise of any costs. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

*James P. DiGrazia*  
James P. DiGrazia  
Supervisory Investigator

enclosure--Alert Sheet



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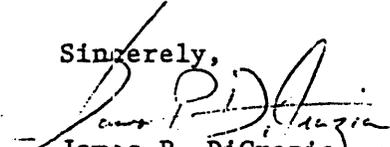
Charles R. Simmons, Coroner  
Sacramento County  
4400 'V' Street  
Sacramento, CA 95817

September 29, 1993

Attn: Records

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission is an agency of the Federal government responsible for the safety of products used in and around the home. We are investigating the deaths of Jacob Vercade and Jason Vercade who died in a residential fire July 7, 1993 in a Foothill Farms home. We would appreciate a copy of the coroner's reports for these persons. Please advise of any costs. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

  
James P. DiGrazia  
Supervisory Investigator

Sacramento County Fire Dist.  
INCIDENT REPORT 21-050819 (011081)

Page 1

Date: 07/07/93 Call back: 332-6872  
Time received: 1014 Arrived: 1019 Code 4: Shutoff: 2015  
Dispatched alarm type: Structure  
Actual alarm type: Structure  
Location: XXXXXXXXXX  
Battalion: 1  
Apparatus responded: E24 E25 TR23 E42 E23  
Other apparatus: 2122 2140 2120 2101  
Other agencies: TR9, E3, A35, A6  
Law/Amb agencies: CHP, SSO, AMB 140  
Hazmat incident: N  
Incident commander: CLOUD, LARRY S.  
Title: BATTALION CHIEF  
Report by: CLOUD, LARRY S.

93 0929HWE 5023  
EXHIBIT A

Sacramento County Fire Dist.  
INCIDENT NARRATIVE 21-050819 (011081)

Page 2

ENGINE 24 ARRIVED TO REPORT A FULLY INVOLVED GARAGE AND ATTIC. REPORTS ENROUTE INDICATED THAT VICTIMS WERE IN THE HOUSE. A SECOND ALARM WAS CALLED. E24 ASSUMED FIRE ATTACK AND DEPLOYED A LINE TO THE BACK BEDROOM AREA OF THE HOUSE WHERE BYSTANDERS INDICATED THE CHILDREN MIGHT BE LOCATED. E24 ADVANCED A LINE INTO THE BACK BEDROOMS AND BEGAN A PRIMARY SEARCH.

ENGINE 3 ARRIVED AND ASSUMED COMMAND. ADDITIONAL ARRIVING UNITS DEPLOYED HANDLINES TO THE FRONT OF THE HOUSE AND TO THE REAR FAMILY ROOM AREA. TRUCK 23 PERFORMED VENTILATION. UTILITIES WERE SECURED, BUT ARCING LINES AT THE WEATHER HEAD TO THE REAR OF THE HOUSE REQUIRED SMUD TO SECURE.

BATTALION ONE (B/C CLOUD) ARRIVED AND ASSUMED COMMAND FROM CAPT. FRANKE OF ENGINE 3. A CHECK WITH FIRE ATTACK INDICATED THAT THE SEARCH WAS STILL NEGATIVE. ADDITIONAL UNITS WERE DEPLOYED INTO THE KITCHEN AND FAMILY ROOM AREA TO CONTINUE THE SEARCH. E42 REPORTED FINDING ONE VICTIM IN THE FAMILY ROOM AREA AND MINUTES LATER E23 REPORTED FINDING ANOTHER VICTIM NEAR THE FIRST IN THE FAMILY ROOM AREA.

UNITS WERE REALIGNED TO CONTINUE OVERHAUL AND REHAB CYCLED PERSONNEL WHILE FINAL EXTINGUISHMENT WAS DONE. FPB, CORONER, AND SHERIFF WAS REQUESTED. UNITS ROTATED OUT OF THE BUILDING UNTIL FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTOR CAMPBELL TOOK CUSTODY OF THE SCENE.

A C.I.S.D. BRIEFING WAS CALLED AND ALL UNITS WERE SENT TO STATION 21 FOR THE MEETING. ENGINE 29 WAS STATIONED AT THE CALL TO WORK WITH FPB. LATER IN THE DAY ENGINE 41, E24 AND TRUCK 23 WERE ALL USED TO COMPLETE OVERHAUL UNTIL APPROXIMATELY 1800 HOURS. THE FINAL DISPOSITION OF THE OCCUPANCY WAS LEFT TO 2122 INSPECTOR CAMPBELL.

THE FIRE VICTIMS WERE TWO TWINS, TWO YEARS OF AGE. THE MOTHER AND FATHER WERE TAKEN TO MERCY SAN JUAN AND LATER RELEASED.

Company: E23 Id: 0225  
Personnel:  
RIGGS, DAVID W.  
MORELL, EDWARD E.  
JARAMILLO, RAYMOND P.  
Conditions on arrival:  
First arrival: Y Forced entry: N Returned enroute: N  
Where: By:  
Responsible officer: RIGGS, DAVID W.  
Entered by: 20DR Updated by: 40UCZ

Sacramento County Fire Dist.  
RUN NARRATIVE E23 21-050819 (011081) Page 2

E23 RESPONDED ON THE SECOND ALARM. UPON OUR ARRIVAL WE WERE INSTRUCTED TO RELIEVE THE CREW THAT WAS ON THE SOUTH WEST SIDE OF THE FIRE. UPON ENTRY E23'S CREW PREFORMED A PRIMARY SEARCH OF THE BEDROOMS IN THE NORTH PART OF THE HOUSE. THE ROOMS WERE CLEAR. F/F TERRY ADVISED ME THAT HE HAD LOCATED ONE OF THE MISSING INFANTS BUT THAT ONE WAS STILL MISSING. ASSUMING THAT THE TWO INFANTS MAY HAVE BEEN TOGETHER, A SYSTEMATIC SEARCH OF THE LIVING ROOM WAS PERFORMED. WITHIN SECONDS THE SECOND INFANT WAS LOCATED UNDER SOME DEBRIS APPROXIMATELY 18 INCHES FROM THE FIRST INFANT. E23 THEN ASSISTED WITH OVERHAUL.

Sacramento County Fire Dist.  
RUN REPORT E24 21-050819 (011081) Page 3

Company: E24 Id: 0302  
Personnel:  
KLINKE, RICHARD A.  
TAFOYA, STEVEN E.  
MARTIN, DALE J.  
Conditions on arrival:  
First arrival: Y Forced entry: N Returned enroute: N  
Where: By:  
Responsible officer: KLINKE, RICHARD A.  
Entered by: 20RAK Updated by: 40UCZ

Sacramento County Fire Dist.  
RUN NARRATIVE E24 21-050819 (011081) Page 4

ENGINE 24 RESPONDED FROM ARC AFTER OBSERVING SMOKE IN THE AREA. THE CALL WAS DISPATCHED AS WE DRESSED. AS WE RESPONDED, A SECOND ALARM WAS REQUESTED BASED UPON THE SMOKE VOLUME. WE RECEIVED A REPORT ENROUTE THAT VICTIMS WERE TRAPPED. ENGINE 24 ARRIVED AND DEPLOYED A 1 3/4" LINE. A CHP AND SEVERAL NEIGHBORS WERE INDICATING THERE WERE TWO CHILDREN IN THE NORTH WEST BEDROOM. WE OBSERVED HEAVY FIRE INVOLVEMENT TO THE GARAGE, KITCHEN AND LIVING AREA. THE FRONT DOOR WAS OPEN. SMOKE WAS POURING OUT OF THE FRONT DOOR. SMOKE WAS VISIBLE IN THE NORTHEAST BEDROOM. AS WE DEPLOYED THE LINE TO THE REAR. WE REQUESTED THE SECOND-IN-ENGINE, ENGINE 3 TO TAKE COMMAND. WE MOVED OPERATIONS TO TAC 6. I ALSO ASKED FOR CONFIRMATION OF B1'S RESPONSE. AS WE ENTERED THE BACK YARD NEIGHBORS HAD BROKEN THE GLASS FROM THE NORTHWEST BEDROOM. THEY AGAIN INDICATED THE CHILDREN WERE IN THIS ROOM. F/F MARTIN INITIALLY ENTERED THE ROOM AS I COORDINATED THE CHANGE TO 6 AND INDICATED THAT I WOULD BE FIRE ATTACK WITH RESCUE BEING MY OBJECTIVE. WE OBSERVED SMOKE CONDITIONS IN THE NEXT BEDROOM TO THE SOUTH. THE SLIDING DOOR FROM THE LIVING ROOM HAD ALREADY

MELTED AND FLAMES WERE ROLLING OUT. I REQUESTED A SECOND ATTACK LINE BE DEPLOYED TO THE BACK. MY STRATEGY WAS TO ATTACK THE FIRE FROM THE BEDROOM SIDE AND SEARCH AS WE PROGRESSED. THE FIRE INVOLVEMENT IN THE FRONT OF THE DWELLING INCLUDING THE KITCHEN AND LIVING AREA DID NOT ALLOW AN INITIAL ATTACK WITHOUT AN IMMEDIATE BACKUP. THEREFORE I OPTED TO ATTACK IN THIS METHOD. F/F MARTIN HAD TO BE COOLED WITH WATER SEVERAL OCCASIONS AS IT WAS EXTREMELY HOT. THE FIRST BEDROOM WAS SEARCHED AND I JOINED HIM TO ASSIST. WE PROCEEDED TO THE HALL AND WE WERE MET BY INTENSE HEAT. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT AN ATTACK LINE FROM THE OTHER DIRECTION INHIBITED OUR PROGRESSION. F/F MARTIN HAD TO EXIT THE BUILDING AS HE WAS BEING BURNED BY THE HEAT. I CONTINUED TO ADVANCE AND CHECKED THE BEDROOM TO THE SOUTH. I CONTINUED TO THE HALLWAY AND AGAIN WAS MET WITH HEAVY HEAT CONDITIONS. MY BOTTLE WAS RINGING SO I EXITED THE BUILDING AND NOTIFIED ANOTHER OFFICER TO CONTINUE THE SEARCH OF THE MASTER BEDROOM. I THEN SWAPPED BOTTLES AND RETURNED TO SEARCH. THE FIRE WAS BEING KNOCKED DOWN SIGNIFICANTLY BY THIS POINT. THE CREW FROM ENGINE 24 THEN ASSISTED WITH MOP UP UNTIL BEING RELIEVED TO ATTEND A CISD MEETING. UPON COMPLETION OF THIS MEETING AND A SHORT BREAK, ENGINE 24 RETURNED TO THE SCENE TO ASSIST WITH DEBRIS REMOVAL. WE REMAINED THERE UNTIL ALL OF THE CEILINGS HAD BEEN PULLED. ENGINE 24 THEN WENT TO QUARTERS AT 2030. WE RETURNED AT 2230 TO CHECKED THE BUILDING. WE FOUND AN ALL CLEAR. THE BOARD UP CREW WAS JUST FINISHING THEIR TASKS.

Sacramento County Fire Dist.  
RUN REPORT E25 21-050819 (011081) Page 5

Company: E25 Id: 0239  
Personnel:  
METTE, DONALD L.  
MILNE, ANTHONY M. JR.  
GARDNER, HAROLD D.  
Conditions on arrival:  
First arrival: N Forced entry: N Returned enroute: N  
Where: By:  
Responsible officer: METTE, DONALD L.  
Entered by: 20DLM Updated by: 40UCZ

Sacramento County Fire Dist.  
RUN NARRATIVE E25 21-050819 (011081) Page 6

ENGINE 25 RESPONDED FROM DIABLO AND HILLSDALE WHEN E24 REQUESTED THE SECOND ALARM. ON ARRIVAL PER FIRE COMMAND E25 TOOK A SECOND HAND LINE TO THE REAR OF THE STRUCTURE. FF GARDENER DEPLOYED THE WYE LINE FROM E24 AND ADVANCED THE LINE TO THE REAR OF THE STRUCTURE. E25'S CREW ENCOUNTERED A LARGE AMOUNT OF FIRE BLOWING OUT THE REAR SOUTHWEST SLIDING GLASS DOOR. E25'S CREW KNOCKED THE FIRE DOWN AND ADVANCED THE LINE THROUGH THE SLIDING DOOR. DUE TO THE LARGE FIRE VOLUME AND POWER LINES ARCHING ABOVE THE EXTERIOR SLIDING DOOR THE LIVELINE WAS ADVANCED ABOUT 10' INTO THE FAMILY ROOM BEFORE BEING REDEPLOYED. CAPT METTE HAD FF GARDENER REDEPLOY THE LIVELINE THROUGH THE MIDDLE BEDROOM WINDOW. E25'S CREW THEN ADVANCED THE LINE INTO THE KITCHEN AREA WHERE THE FIRE HAD BEEN PRETTY MUCH KNOCKED DOWN. E25'S CREW WAS THEN ASSIGNED TO OVERHAUL THE GARAGE AREA WITH E23'S CREW. AFTER REHABING E25 REPORTED TO STATION 21 FOR A C.I.S.D. DEBRIEFING.

Sacramento County Fire Dist.  
RUN REPORT E27 21-050819 (011081)

Page 7

Company: E27 Id: 047  
Personnel:  
BRADFORD, MICHAEL D.  
STEWART, DALE R.  
CARROLL, DONALD R.  
Conditions on arrival: MOVED UP TO STATION 25 FOR COVERAGE.  
First arrival: N Forced entry: N Returned enroute: N  
Where: By:  
Responsible officer: BRADFORD, MICHAEL D.  
Entered by: 20MDB Updated by: 40UCZ

Sacramento County Fire Dist.  
RUN NARRATIVE E27 21-050819 (011081)

Page 8

ENGINE 27 MOVED UP TO STATION 25 TO COVER GRASS 25 AND ENGINE 27.  
ENGINE 27 REMAINED IN SERVICE AT STATION 25 FOR APPROXIMATELY 5  
HOURS BEFORE BEING RELEASED BY FIRE DISPATCH.

Sacramento County Fire Dist.  
RUN REPORT E29 21-050819 (011081)

Page 9

Company: E29 Id: 0230  
Personnel:  
RAMSEY, WILLIAM L.  
VERSEMAN, STEPHEN G.  
CARTER, ROBERT A.  
Conditions on arrival:  
First arrival: N Forced entry: N Returned enroute: N  
Where: By:  
Responsible officer: RAMSEY, WILLIAM L.  
Entered by: 20WLR Updated by: 40UCZ

Sacramento County Fire Dist.  
RUN NARRATIVE E29 21-050819 (011081)

Page 10

ENGINE 29 WAS MOVED TO STATION 24 AND THEN MOVED TO THE FIRE TO  
ASSIST FIRE PREVENTION. ENGINE 29 WAS ON SCENE UNTIL 1515 HRS.  
WHEN RELIVED BY ENGINE 41.

Sacramento County Fire Dist.  
RUN REPORT E41 21-050819 (011081)

Page 11

Company: E41 Id: 0226  
Personnel:  
SKIDMORE, JAMES W.  
THOMSON, BRYAN K.  
Conditions on arrival: MOVE UP TO STA 42 FOR COVERAGE  
First arrival: Y Forced entry: N Returned enroute: N  
Where: By:  
Responsible officer: SKIDMORE, JAMES W.  
Entered by: 20JWS Updated by: 40UCZ

Sacramento County Fire Dist.  
RUN NARRATIVE E41 21-050819 (011081)

Page 12

ENGINE AND GRASS 41 WERE MOVED UP TO STATION 42 FOR COVERAGE DUE  
TO A STRUCTURE FIRE ON DATE AVE. MOVED UP AT 1200 HOURS

Company: E42 Id: 065  
Personnel:  
JAMES, BRIAN G.  
SCHROEDER, JEFFREY P.  
TERRY, DAVID B.  
Conditions on arrival: RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURE  
First arrival: N Forced entry: N Returned enroute: N  
Where: By:  
Responsible officer: JAMES, BRIAN G.  
Entered by: 20BGJ Updated by: 40UCZ

ENGINE 42 WAS DISPATCHED TO A SECOND ALARM STRUCTURE FIRE AT DATE DR AND FREEWAY CIR. E42 ARRIVED AND WAS ASSIGNED TO BACK UP INTERIOR CREWS. E42'S CREW ALONG WITH ONE A.R.F.D FIREFIGHTER ENTERED THE HOUSE WITH A LINE. U/C JAMES HAD A FACE TO FACE WITH CAPT. KLINKE OF E24. E24 HAD BEEN SEARCHING THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE HOUSE BUT NEEDED TO LEAVE FOR AIR BOTTLES. IT WAS DECIDED THAT E42 SHOULD SEARCH THE HOUSE TO THE LEFT. E42 EXTINGUISHED SOME REMAINING FIRES AND WORKED ITS WAY TO THE LIVING ROOM. ONE DECEASED CHILD WAS LOCATED IN THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE ROOM. E42'S CREW RELOCATED TO THE REHAB AREA. E42 WENT 10-7 TO STATION 21 FOR A C.I.S.D.

Company: G41 Id: 0256  
Personnel:  
MURPHY, THOMAS J.

Conditions on arrival: MOVE UP TO STATION 42 FOR COVERAGE  
First arrival: N Forced entry: N Returned enroute: N  
Where: By:  
Responsible officer: MURPHY, THOMAS J.  
Entered by: 20JWS Updated by: 40UCZ

Company: M21 Id: 0270  
Personnel:  
MASSENGALE, DAVID R.  
CHAMBERLAIN, ZACHARY E.

Conditions on arrival: FIRST ALARM ASSIGNMENT ON SCENE  
First arrival: N Forced entry: N Returned enroute: N  
Where: By:  
Responsible officer: MASSENGALE, DAVID R.  
Entered by: 10DRM Updated by: 40UCZ

MEDIC 21 RESPONDED FROM MERCY SAN JUAN HOSPITAL FOR A SECOND

ALARM STRUCTURE FIRE WITH A REPORT OF PERSONS TRAPPED AT DATE AND FREEWAY. UPON ARRIVAL, MEDIC 21'S PARAMEDIC MASSENGALE DID A FACE TO FACE WITH B-1 FOR AN ASSIGNMENT. B-1 ASSIGNED MEDIC 21 CREW TO SET UP A RE-HAB AREA. MEDIC 21 CREW ESTABLISHED A RE-HAB AREA ON THE CORNER OF DATE AND FREEWAY IN THE FRONT LAWN OF THE STRUCTURE INVOLVED. MEDIC 21 CREW MONITORED PERSONNEL AS THEY ROTATED THROUGH RE-HAB AND ASSISTED THE AIR UNIT CREW SHUTTLE BOTTLES IN AND OUT OF RE-HAB. MEDIC 21 REMAINED AT SCENE UNTIL RELEASED BY B-1 CLOUD.

Sacramento County Fire Dist.  
RUN REPORT TR23 21-050819 (011081)

Page 18

Company: TR23 Id: 071  
Personnel:  
KRUGER, GEORGE E. JR.  
WELLS, MARK A.  
SANTOS, SCOTT P.  
Conditions on arrival:  
First arrival: N Forced entry: N Returned enroute: N  
Where: By:  
Responsible officer: KRUGER, GEORGE E. JR.  
Entered by: 20EK Updated by: 40UCZ

Sacramento County Fire Dist.  
RUN NARRATIVE TR23 21-050819 (011081)

Page 19

TRUCK 23 RESPONDED FOR A REPORT OF A STRUCTURE FIRE. WHEN THE TRUCK ARRIVED THE DWELLING WAS STILL WELL INVOLVED IN FIRE. A STANDARD RESIDENTIAL VENTILATION OPERATION WAS EXECUTED. THE FIRST VENTILATION CUT REVEALED HEAVY INVOLVEMENT OF FIRE IN THE ATTIC ABOVE THE LIVING ROOM AREA. TRUCK'S CREW THEN ASSISTED WITH FIRE ATTACK IN THE GARAGE. WE WERE THEN ASSIGNED TO CUT THE HOUSE POWER AT THE WEATHER HEAD, AS, THE LINES WERE ARCHING ON THE WEATHER HEAD AND ENERGIZING THE HOUSE PAST THE BREAKER PANEL. SQUAD 23 PROVIDED POWER TO SUPPLY LIGHTING AND MECHANICAL VENTILATION. TRUCK 23'S CREW THEN REPORTED TO REHAB UNTIL ASSIGNED TO BEGIN OVERHAUL OPERATIONS. WE ASSISTED WITH THE SALVAGE OF THE BEDROOMS THEN PROCEEDED TO REMOVED THE CEILINGS AND INSULATION FROM THE DWELLING.

Sacramento County Fire Dist.  
RUN REPORT TR65 21-050819 (011081)

Page 20

Company: TR65 Id: 0248  
Personnel:  
AREND, DUANE L.  
LASH, TIMOTHY K.  
MITCHELL, CHRISTOPHER B.  
Conditions on arrival: MOVED UP TO STATION 21  
First arrival: Y Forced entry: N Returned enroute: N  
Where: By:  
Responsible officer: AREND, DUANE L.  
Entered by: 20DLA Updated by: 40UCZ

SCFD Run #932-11081  
SSD #93-49799  
7 July 1993

930929HWE 5023  
Exhibit B

Structure  
1014 hours

## FIRE INVESTIGATION REPORT

On July 7, 1993, at about 1020 hours, I responded to a two alarm residential structure fire in progress at [REDACTED]. I arrived at about 1037 hours. As I arrived, I heard a radio report that a deceased child had been found inside the residence and that a second child was still missing. I contacted B/C Larry Cloud and confirmed that one child had been found. I then located the mother of the children in the back of an ambulance on scene. I asked her what her name was, how many children were supposed to be inside and where they were inside the house. She said her name was [REDACTED] and that there were two children inside, one in the living room and one in a back bedroom. As I was enroute back to B/C Cloud with this information, units inside the house advised that they had found the second child, also deceased. At this point, I asked Fire Dispatch to have SCFD Inspector Ed James and ARFD Inspector Tom McKinnon to respond to the scene.

As I went back to the ambulance to get a statement from the mother, the children's "father", [REDACTED], arrived at the scene. After several minutes, I took a tape recorded statement from [REDACTED]. This statement will be transcribed. She was visibly upset and shaken and her statement was disjointed at times.

When Inspector James arrived, I had him contact and interview the first arriving firefighters and any witnesses to the fire. When Inspector McKinnon arrived, I had him canvass the neighborhood to locate any other witnesses.

I met with SSD Sgt. Bob Ruh. After some discussion, it was decided that detectives from the SSD Child Abuse Bureau would respond to the scene as well as an SSD Crime Scene Investigator. When the detectives arrived, it was decided that Detective Ted Voudouris would be in charge of the SSD investigation and I would be in charge of the investigation to determine the fire's origin and cause.

After the fire was mostly extinguished, firefighters were ordered out of the building. The exterior and interior of the residence were videotaped and still photographs were also taken prior to any further overhaul.

The residence is a single story single family dwelling of wood frame construction with a composition shingle roof. The house is located on the southwest corner of [REDACTED] Ave and Freeway Circle and faces east onto [REDACTED]. The interior of the house consists of three bedrooms, two bathrooms, a living room, a kitchen with a common eating area and an attached two car garage. There are three entry doors into the house; the front door, a door on the east side of the kitchen that leads to the garage and a sliding glass door on the west

side of the living room that leads to the back yard. Of these, the front door was closed at the time of the fire and was opened by the mother from the outside after the fire was discovered. The door between the kitchen and garage was open at the time of the fire. The sliding glass door was closed at the time of the fire and was also locked according to the children's mother.

The springs for the overhead garage door are in the closed position. The south end of the door frame is still attached to the spring plate and is in a vertical position, indicating that the door was closed at the time of the fire. Exterior burn patterns show heavy fire ventilating through the front entry and overhead garage door opening. There is a maroon vehicle parked in the south half of the driveway facing to the east. The rear of the vehicle, closest to the garage, has been burned as well as the grass just outside the garage.

The back yard is surrounded by a wooden fence. Several planks have been removed from the north and south sides of the fence to gain access to the back yard. Examination of the windows around the house shows that all windows were closed at the time of the fire. There is a small deck outside the sliding glass door. There are three chair frames on the south end of the deck as well as a pile of linoleum squares. The chairs and linoleum have been burned as has the deck. There are small glass fragments on the deck along the width of the glass door. The aluminum frame is melted away except for the threshold, the base of both panels and short stubs of the vertical framing. The position of the remaining frame members confirm that the sliding door was closed at the time of the fire. The handle and locking mechanism have been melted by the fire and cannot be examined. The eaves above the sliding door are burned with heavier damage over the south side of the door opening than the north.

All burn patterns on the exterior of the house are consistent with fire originating inside the house. There are no indications of fire originating on the exterior of the house and spreading to the interior.

All three bedrooms and both bathrooms are in the northern half of the house and are accessed by a hallway running north from the entry way. Portions of the ceiling have been pulled down by firefighters during their efforts to extinguish the fire. Burn patterns on the hallway walls and ceiling show fire movement from south to north from the area of the living room. Burn damage in the hallway increases in proximity to the living room.

The door of the hallway bathroom was open at the time of the fire. This bathroom is on the east side of the house just north of the main entry. There is severe heat and smoke damage in this room. There are several pornographic magazines in plain view in the bathroom. There is a rubber replica of a male sex organ in a sports bag on the floor of this bathroom.

The master bathroom suite is located in the northeast corner of the house. The door of this room was open at the time of the fire and there is moderate smoke and heat damage to the contents.

The children's room is in the northwest corner of the house. There is a small waterbed in the northwest corner of the room and a crib along the north wall. There are several toys throughout the room. The door to this room was also open at the time of the fire and there is moderate heat and smoke damage to the contents.

There is a third bedroom on the west side of the house between the children's room and the living room. There are no beds in this room and it appears to be used for storage. The door to this room was closed at the time of the fire and many of the contents are relatively undamaged. There are several boxes of unopened hand-held fireworks on the floor. There is a blue butane lighter also on the floor. There are three burned areas on a piece of paper on the wall next to the door that do not appear to have been caused by this fire.

There are no indications of fire originating in the northern half of the house. All burn patterns show fire moving from south to north from the area of the living room.

The door between the kitchen and garage was open at the time of the fire. Only the bottom third of the frame of the door itself is intact and shows that the door was more open than closed. Burn patterns on the door show fire movement from west to east into the garage from the interior of the house. There is a honeycomb material inside the door, indicating that it is a hollow-core door and not a slab or solid-core door.

The main entry door is a solid-core door. It is detached from its hinges and is lying against the south wall of the entry way. Both sides of the door are burned. There is a collapsed and burned child gate lying outside the entry way. This gate was attached to the north side of the door jamb, the same side the front door was hinged. The door knob is melted and is lying on the floor inside the entry way. Burn patterns on the door and area outside the door indicate that the door was open during the fire. There is an aluminum threshold across the front entry. This threshold is melted, fairly uniformly, across the width of the doorway.

The southern half of the house contains, from east to west, the kitchen, the eating area (common with the kitchen), and living room. The door between the kitchen and garage is on the south end of the east wall of the kitchen. The sliding glass door is about in the center of the west wall of the living room.

The debris in the entry way is systematically removed. The flooring in this area is heavy linoleum glued to the concrete slab. The linoleum is charred in the entry way in a manner consistent with damage caused by radiant heat. There are no patterns on the floor indicative of the presence of a flammable liquid.

There are no furnishings noted in the eating area. Debris on the floor appears to be limited to contents of the refrigerator/freezer and upper cabinets. The upper and lower doors of the refrigerator/freezer have opened during the fire, spilling contents onto the kitchen floor as the fire melted the shelf supports. The upper cabinet closest to the entry way has burned through and collapsed onto the floor. The ceiling in the eating area has been pulled down.

The ceiling joists are clean on the bottom, indicating that the drywall was intact during the fire. There is still paper and texture on the drywall near the eating area window on the south wall. Damage on the walls and ceiling in the kitchen and eating area show fire movement from west to east from the living room. The floor of the kitchen and eating area was washed after removal of the burned debris. There are no burn patterns consistent with the presence of a flammable liquid.

The living room is in the southwest corner of the house. This room is most heavily damaged room in the house. The ceiling has completely collapsed and the ceiling joists are thoroughly charred, indicating that the ceiling collapsed early in the fire. There are no vents in the eaves, indicating that fire entered the attic over the living room after the ceiling collapsed. The drywall on the walls is thoroughly calcinated with much more severe damage than in the eating area or hallway. There is a marked line of demarcation on the interior of the drywall, indicating a rapid buildup of heat. There is an entertainment center along the east wall of the living room. There is a sofa/love seat along the north wall and another sofa/love seat on the west side in front of the sliding glass door. There is a coffee table in front of the sofa/love seat on the west side and an end table in the northwest corner of the room. Both sofas are virtually consumed by the fire, with only the springs and large frame members remaining. The coffee and end tables have cast pedestals with glass tops. The glass tops are melted. The cast pedestals indicate fire movement from south to north from the south end of the sofa in front of the sliding glass door. Overall burn patterns indicate fire origin at the south end of the sofa in front of the sliding glass door.

Both victims are located at the south end of the sofa in front of the sliding glass door at the point of origin. The victims are twin boys about two years, eleven months of age. Victim #1, tentatively identified as [REDACTED], is lying on his left side in a fetal position. The long axis of his body runs slightly east of north-south with his head to the north. There is substantial thermal damage to the body on all surfaces. The skin and subdermal tissues on the anterior chest and abdomen are burned away, exposing the internal organs. Most of the cranium is missing and the brain is exposed. The limbs are drawn into a pugilistic position. There is a necklace around the neck. When the mother was asked if either of the children wore a necklace, she immediately replied, "That's [REDACTED]." During the autopsy, traces of soot were found in the esophagus and trachea, indicating that victim #1 was alive at the time of the fire. The amount and consistency of the thermal damage over the entire body indicates that victim #1 was mobile during the fire and was not stationary on the floor. The floor beneath the body was also burned.

Victim #2 is lying on the floor about two feet east of victim #1. The body is lying on the left side. The back is notably arched. There is a fragment of carpet and pad attached to the right parietal area of the cranium. The right buttock is protected with skin intact identifiable as belonging to a caucasian. The protected areas indicate that the body was originally lying on its right side and was moved after the fire, possible by a hose line. Much of the cranium is missing with external beveling on the intact skull, leaving the brain exposed. The skin and tissue on the anterior chest and abdomen are burned away as are some of the anterior ribs,

leaving the internal organs exposed. Both legs are missing distally from the mid-shaft femur. The ends of the intact femur are charred, indicating that the legs were separated during the fire. Both arms are drawn back at the shoulder. The position of the back and arms occurred prior to death and are probably due to the victim burning prior to death. During the autopsy, soot was found in the esophagus, bronchi and trachea of victim #2, indicating that the child was alive at the time of the fire. The carpet was removed from the skull during the autopsy. The exposed area of the carpet was burned, indicating that the child fell to that position during the fire and was therefore mobile during the fire.

The area around both victims was gridded prior to their removal. The grids measure about thirty-two (32) inches square. The grids are labelled "A" through "C", starting in the southwest corner of the living room and moving east. They are labelled "1" through "4", starting in the southwest corner and moving north. Victim #1 is located in grid A-3. Victim #2 is located in grid B-3.

Each victim was removed intact with the debris below and on the body and placed on a clean white sheet. After the debris was removed from the body and the body preliminarily examined, the body was then placed in a body bag for transport. The debris from the vicinity of the body was then sifted and examined. Pieces of flat bone and brain tissue were found in the debris around victim #1. This material was placed in a nylon bag. Similar bone and tissue as well as a leg of victim #2 were found in the debris. These items were placed in a nylon bag as well. Both bags were taken to the morgue and placed with the respective bodies.

The debris from grid A-2 was also sifted. Found in this grid, adjacent to the body of victim #1, is a melted fireplace or barbecue type butane lighter. The barrel of the lighter is intact. The plastic handle is melted. The brass gas valve is contained in the melted plastic. It is not obvious if the lighter is of the trigger or lever variety. The plastic is melted to the carpet. The original pattern on the carpet is consistent with the original shape of the handle, indicating that the lighter fell to the floor early in the fire prior to melting.

After the bodies and adjacent debris were removed, the floor was washed for examination. There are no burn patterns consistent with the presence of a flammable liquid.

### CONCLUSIONS

Overall burn patterns indicate the fire originated in the living room at the south end of the sofa in front of the sliding glass door, where the two victims were found. There is a butane lighter of a type that is ignitable by a child of that age on the floor next to victim #1. The probable point of origin is the clothing of victim #2, with the fire spreading to victim #1 and the surrounding furnishings. There are no indications that any accelerants were used to increase the spread of the fire. Autopsy results show that both victims were alive and mobile at the time of the fire. Neither autopsy revealed any trauma other than thermal burns and inhalation of products of combustion. There are no indications that either child was

Page 6

physically restrained at the time of the fire.

Based on these findings, it is my opinion that the fire originated at the point where the children were found and that the most probable cause is the children playing with the barbecue lighter. The cause of the fire is therefore determined to be accidental.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "S.J. Campbell", is written over a solid horizontal line.

S.J. Campbell  
Supervising Inspector



**CORONER OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY  
CORONER'S INVESTIGATION**

Case No. 93-2359

DATE July 7, 1993	TIME 1044	REPORTED BY: Sacramento County Communications
RECEIVED BY Beard/Greene	DEPUTY ASSIGNED Synhorst	

**CLASSIFICATION**      Accidental Fire

DECEDENT PERSONAL DATA	1a Name - First [REDACTED]	1b Middle [REDACTED]	1c Last [REDACTED]	2a Date of Death 7-7-93	2b Time 1039	
	M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/>	4 Race White	5 SSN [REDACTED]	6 Date of Birth 9-2-90	7 Age 2	8 Marital Status Never Married
RESIDENCE	9a Usual Address [REDACTED] 95841		9b City Sacramento	9c County Sacramento		
PLACE OF DEATH	10a Place of Death Residence			10b County Sacramento		
	10c Street Address [REDACTED] 95841			10d City Sacramento		
CAUSE OF DEATH	11 INHALATION OF PRODUCTS OF COMBUSTION AND TOTAL BODY THERMAL BURNS					
INJURY INFORMATION	12 Accident, Suicide, etc. Accident	13 Place of Injury Residence	14 At Work? No	15a Date of Injury 7-7-93	15b Hour approx. 1015	
	16 Location [REDACTED]		17 Describe how injury occurred Decedent involved in house fire.			
RELATIVES	18a Names (Relationship) [REDACTED]	18b Address [REDACTED] #21	18c Phone [REDACTED]			
NOTIFICATION	19a Who Notified Mother at scene	19b How Notified	19c By	19d Date	19e Time	
DESCRIPTION	20 Height 33½	21 Weight 15'7"	22 Hair Unknown	23 Eyes Unknown	24 Teeth Natural	25 Tattoos/Scars None
IDENTIFICATION	26 Remains identified by or how identified Family members					
	27. Other Investigators SSD Det. Voudouris/Sacramento Co. Fire			28 Remains Removed By Morris and Morris Transport		
PROPERTY	29 Property Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	30 Receipt # 01755/01366	31 Released/Sealed By dna	32 Keys Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	33 Other	

**CASE SUMMARY**

34

See attached supplement

930929HWE5023  
EXHIBIT C

Note: Cross reference with Coroner Case 93-2360, Jacob Verkade.



CORONER'S INVESTIGATION  
 COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

FIRST NAME

MIDDLE NAME

LAST NAME

CASE NO.

93-2359

Two year old twins, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] lived at [REDACTED] in Sacramento with their mother, [REDACTED] and her male friend, [REDACTED]. On July 7, 1993, [REDACTED] was in the front yard area of the residence, cleaning an automobile which was parked on the front lawn. The twins remained unattended inside the residence. At approximately 1014 hours a passing motorist stopped and asked [REDACTED] if she was aware that the house was on fire. [REDACTED] ran to the front door of the residence and opened it but was unable to enter due to an intense blast of heat. Just as [REDACTED] attempted to enter the residence, Highway Patrol Officers from the nearby CHP-North Office arrived at the residence and began to attempt to extinguish the fire and to aid [REDACTED]. The Sacramento County Fire Department received a 9-1-1 call at 1014 hours and immediately dispatched fire units. Fire personnel began extinguishing the fire and searching for the children. At 1039 hours, fire personnel advised their dispatch center that both children had been located and were obviously expired.

This office was contacted by Sacramento County Communications and advised of the deaths. Deputy Coroner Miles responded to the scene, however, when he arrived he was advised by fire personnel that Sacramento County Sheriff's Detectives and Sacramento County Arson Investigators were being summoned to the residence. Miles returned to the Coroner's Office and at 1528 hours, I went to the scene. I was accompanied by Gregory Schmunk, MD and Guillermo Martinez-Torres, MD, Coroner Pathologists.

The bodies of both victims were found in the family room area of the house. The interior of the house had been extensively damaged by the fire with the most severe damage in the family room/kitchen area. The bodies had sustained almost total charring, along with numerous heat related extremity and skull fractures. Arrangements were made for both bodies to be transported to the Coroner's Office for autopsy. They were initially identified as Coroner Cases 93-2359 (Unidentified Twin 1) and 93-2360 (Unidentified Twin 2).

Coroner case 93-2359 appeared to be wearing a yellow metal necklace. [REDACTED] later identified the twin wearing the necklace as [REDACTED]. Our files were amended to reflect this information with case 93-2359 identified as [REDACTED] and 93-2360 identified as [REDACTED].

Subsequent autopsy and toxicology studies revealed the cause of death to be: Inhalation of Products of Combustion and Total Body Thermal Burns.

Sacramento County Fire Investigators examined the debris left after



CORONER'S INVESTIGATION  
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

FIRST NAME

MIDDLE NAME

LAST NAME

CASE NO.

93-2359

the fire was extinguished and determined that the fire appeared to have started near where the bodies were found and was most likely started by a barbecue lighting device (apparently [REDACTED] had recently purchased such a device). Based on the scene investigation, circumstances and the cause of death, these cases will be classified "Accidental Fire".

1  
2 OFFICE OF THE CORONER - SACRAMENTO COUNTY

3 [REDACTED], Coroner

4 [REDACTED], Investigator

5 [REDACTED], M.D., Pathologist

6 [REDACTED], CA 95817

7  
8 REPORT OF AUTOPSY

9 NAME [REDACTED]

CASE # 93-2359

10 DATE OF AUTOPSY Thursday, July 8, 1993

@ 0830 hrs

11 AGE 2 ETHNICITY Caucasian SEX Male HT 33.5" WT 15lbs7oz

12  
13 EXTERNAL EXAMINATION

14  
15 The remains are present within a white body bag and wrapped with a somewhat soiled sheet.  
16 Also present within the body bag are two plastic bags, one of which has been collected at the  
17 scene by the Deputy and the undersigned, the second has been subsequently received from the  
18 scene. The remains are that of a severely burned and charred male child. The overall size of  
19 the body is consistent with 2-4 years of age. There is abundant charred debris present  
20 adjacent to the body. In addition there is a charred metal necklace which has been broken  
21 with a clasp intact adjacent to the neck. The body shows signs of extensive thermal damage  
22 as described below. The body is cool to the touch and has been refrigerated. Description of  
23 the natural surface characteristics of the body is precluded by the extensive thermal damage  
24 present. All injuries are described below. No scars or other identifying markings are noted  
25 on the remaining surfaces. A small portion of protected skin is present in the left inguinal  
26 region which appears to be caucasoid in nature. The area measures approximately 2" in  
27 greatest dimension.

28  
29 EXTERNAL EVIDENCE OF INJURY

- 30  
31 1. There is extensive thermal damage to all body surfaces. The calvarium has been fractured  
32 exposing partially charred and thermally damaged underlying brain. The edges of the  
33 fractured calvarium are irregular but show no convincing evidence of internal or external  
34 beveling. The fracture line extends from the right frontal region irregularly through the  
35 left frontal, across through the left temporoparietal and back to the left occipital, then  
36 coursing to the right at a point approximately 1/2" above the upper base of the neck. The  
37 fracture line then extends to the right across the lateral aspect of the right petrous pyramid  
38 and then forward to the right frontal area. The underlying exposed brain has a slightly  
39 pink character. The thermal damage to the anterior face has exposed the orbital ridges.  
40 The lips are retracted and expose the anterior surfaces of the teeth which appear to be  
41 relatively well preserved, especially posteriorly where they are covered by the oral  
42 mucosa. The jaw is clenched tightly with the tongue present between the teeth. The soft  
43 tissues of the bilateral cheeks are partially burned free of the body exposing charred

44 musculature. The ocular contents are retracted into the head. The majority of the nose is  
45 collapsed and the nares are filled with carbonaceous material.

46  
47 Thermal damage to the trunk has exposed the majority of the soft tissues of the anterior  
48 chest and abdomen. Posterolaterally on the right the ribs approximately right 4th and  
49 lower are absent to the level of the attachment to the vertebral spine. This exposes the  
50 underlying diaphragm, the right lung, and a large quantity of the liver. Multiple loops of  
51 large and small bowel are also noted to be present external to the body. The right ileum  
52 is virtually completely exposed and shows a charred upper surface. The central portion of  
53 the back is absent of soft tissues down to the level of the charred vertebral spines. On the  
54 left side of the body there is extensive charring exposing again the thoracic cavity and the  
55 lateral aspects of the abdominal cavity including a firm and densely charred spleen. The  
56 upper extremities have assumed a classic pugilistic attitude and thermal fractures are  
57 present of the bilateral forearms. The hands are extensively charred and blackened with  
58 absence of the distal fingertips. The ends of the fractured long bones are brittle and  
59 charred. The lower extremities also assume a classic pugilistic attitude. There are  
60 thermal fractures to the exposed anterior left tibia. The knees are flexed bilaterally and  
61 the distal right lower extremity from the mid shaft of the tibia and fibula distally is absent  
62 and represented separately as described below. The sole of the left foot is extensively  
63 charred and slightly contracted. The crown-rump length of the remains is approximately  
64 21-1/2". The overall height of the decedent from cranium down to the left heel is  
65 approximately 36".

66  
67 Present in the larger of the two bags as recovered from the scene by the undersigned are  
68 multiple portions of charred bone including long bones and flat bones most probably  
69 representative of portions of calvarium. A few portions of wood and fibrous insulation  
70 are also present. Soft tissues are represented primarily by small portions of white-tan soft  
71 brain material. Also present within this bag is the extensively charred and contracted  
72 right foot of the decedent. The great toe is present. The remaining toes are absent.  
73 Present within the smaller bag as received from Inspector Campbell is a 120 gram portion  
74 of largely brain material. A few intermixed flat bones are noted.

#### 75 76 PRIMARY INCISION & BODY CAVITIES

77  
78 The body is opened in roughly the usual manner following a generally Y-shaped incision.  
79 There is exposure of thoracic and abdominal contents as described above. The musculature is  
80 slightly pink. The pleural and peritoneal surfaces show no evidence of injury other than  
81 thermal damage. The organs are largely coagulated especially the inferior surfaces of both  
82 lungs, right lateral liver, and the entire spleen. In addition the lateral aspects of the kidneys

## AUTOPSY

83 are somewhat charred. There are no unusual fluid accumulations noted. The heart blood is  
84 largely coagulated and gelatinous in nature. The abdominal fat thickness is not assessable.

85  
86 INTERNAL EVIDENCE OF INJURY

- 87
- 88 1. There is thermal damage to the majority of the intrathoracic and intra-abdominal organs as  
89 described above.
  - 90 2. There is soot deposition present throughout the larynx down to the level of the primary  
91 bronchi and beyond. There is also dark soot present within the esophagus down to the  
92 level of the stomach. The stomach itself is extensively charred but shows no evidence of  
93 soot present within the lumen.  
94

95  
96 INTERNAL EXAMINATION

97  
98 HEAD: The brain is removed without need for further sawing of the calvarium. The  
99 protected surfaces of the brain stem and cerebellum show a bright pink coloration. The blood  
100 is largely coagulated. In the left frontal and middle fossa inferiorly there is a post-mortem  
101 appearing epidural hematoma measuring 4" in length, up to 1" in width, and approximately  
102 1/2" in overall thickness. No fractures are noted around this epidural hemorrhage. The  
103 nearest fracture being present approximately 1-3/4" superior. No fractures at the base of the  
104 skull are identified. The edges of the calvarium demonstrate a charred and non-beveled  
105 appearance as described above.  
106

107 The brain is removed through the fractured calvarium and weighs 600 grams. There is  
108 epidural hemorrhage present as described above. No subdural hemorrhages are noted. The  
109 brain is markedly friable due to thermal damage. This is especially noted in the bilateral  
110 frontal and parietal lobes. The cerebellum is more preserved but is markedly softened. The  
111 leptomeninges in the regions of preservation show a bright red appearance. No lesions are  
112 identified in the brain upon sectioning. No other collections of hemorrhage are appreciated.  
113 Removal of the dura from the base of the skull reveals no evidence of basilar skull fracture.  
114 There is epidural hemorrhage present at the base as described above. The foramen magnum  
115 demonstrates a normal orientation and the first portion of the spinal cord appears  
116 unremarkable.  
117

118 NECK ORGANS: Examination of the soft tissues, cartilaginous and bony structures of the  
119 neck demonstrate thermal damage and injuries as described above. There are no hemorrhages  
120 noted within the structures of the neck and the hyoid bone and laryngeal cartilages appear  
121 intact.

## AUTOPSY

122 **CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM:** The heart weighs 38 grams. Examination of the  
123 epicardium shows thermal coagulation. The heart is otherwise intact. The chambers  
124 demonstrate their usual shape and configuration without evidence of gross hypertrophy. The  
125 coronary arteries appear normally disposed without abnormality. Cut surfaces of the  
126 myocardium reveal subendocardial staining which is bright red. The remainder of the  
127 myocardium is pale brown consistent with thermal coagulation. No thickening in the  
128 ventricular walls is identified. The valves are intact with the usual anatomic relationships.  
129 The atria are unremarkable. The aorta follows its usual course without abnormalities. The  
130 origins of the major vessels appear normally disposed and unremarkable.

131  
132 **RESPIRATORY SYSTEM:** The larynx and trachea show extensive soot deposition. This is  
133 described in more detail above. They are continuous in the usual manner with the primary  
134 bronchi. The secondary and tertiary bronchi show no other abnormalities. A section of the  
135 main stem bronchus on the right is submitted in cassette #1. The right and left lungs weigh  
136 100 and 104 grams, respectively. The pleural surfaces show charring of the inferior lobes  
137 bilaterally. No other injuries are appreciated. The cut surfaces show a dense partially  
138 thermally coagulated parenchyma which in the superior lobes shows moderate pulmonary  
139 edema and congestion. There is no evidence of consolidation or enlargement of the air  
140 spaces. The pulmonary vessels occupy their usual relationships without evidence of emboli.

141  
142 **HEPATOBIILIARY SYSTEM:** The liver weighs 470 grams and has a smooth, glistening  
143 capsular surface with the exception of the right lateral portion which shows thermal  
144 coagulation and deposition of carbonaceous material. Cut surfaces of the liver demonstrate a  
145 thermally coagulated pinkish-red parenchyma showing the usual anatomic features. The  
146 gallbladder lies in the normal position and contains approximately 5cc of dark green bile. No  
147 abnormalities are present in the mucosal lining. The biliary tree appears normally disposed  
148 and no abnormalities are demonstrated.

149  
150 **LYMPHORETICULAR SYSTEM:** The spleen weighs 18 grams and is extensively charred  
151 but has a thermally coagulated parenchyma which appears to show the normal anatomic  
152 features. The thymus is largely charred, but is of normal size and there is 8 grams of residual  
153 tissue remaining. The parenchyma appears unremarkable. No lymphadenopathy is  
154 appreciated.

155  
156 **URINARY SYSTEM:** The right and left kidneys weigh 21 and 18 grams respectively. The  
157 cortical surfaces are extensively charred but there appears to be good preservation of the  
158 cortex and good corticomedullary differentiation. The pelves are essentially unremarkable.  
159 They are continuous into normal-appearing ureters which insert into an otherwise  
160 unremarkable bladder containing 15cc of pink urine.

[REDACTED]  
AUTOPSY

161 INTERNAL GENITALIA: The inguinal region is sharply explored revealing that there is in  
162 fact a penile shaft present within the thermally damaged soft tissues. In addition one testicle  
163 appears to be identified. A section of this testis is placed into cassette #...

164  
165 GASTROINTESTINAL TRACT: The pharynx and esophagus are unremarkable with the  
166 exception of soot deposition present throughout the entire esophagus. The stomach lies in the  
167 normal position and is devoid of contents due to a thermally affected rupture of the mid  
168 fundus. The mucosal lining of the stomach is otherwise unremarkable. No medication  
169 residues are identified. No other perforations or other ulcerations are appreciated. The  
170 stomach is continuous into a normal-appearing duodenum and small bowel with the exception  
171 of thermal damage as described above. The loops of bowel are markedly friable. The  
172 appendix is present.

173  
174 ENDOCRINE SYSTEM: With the exception of thermal damage the thyroid, adrenals, and  
175 pancreas are unremarkable. The pituitary gland is not recovered.

176  
177 MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM: No fractures other than thermal fractures are definitely  
178 identified. The skeletal muscle demonstrates a moderately bright pink appearance. The bone  
179 marrow, where visualized, is unremarkable.

180  
181 ASSISTANTS [REDACTED]

182 [REDACTED]  
183 [REDACTED] RN, FNP, Supervisor  
184

185 TISSUES FOR TOXICOLOGY Heart blood, vitreous, urine, liver, and bile.

186  
187 TISSUES FOR HISTOLOGY Heart, lung, spleen, liver, kidney, pancreas, thymus, testis,  
188 adrenal, trachea, and brain.

189  
190 WITNESSES

Inspector Jeff Campbell, Sacramento County Fire Department  
and Detective Ted Voudouris, Sacramento Sheriff's  
Department.

191  
192  
193  
194 MICROSCOPIC DESCRIPTION

195  
196 LUNG: Congestion and edema. Black particulate material lining small bronchi and trachea.

197  
198 KIDNEY: Thermal damage to surface layers. No other changes appreciated.  
199

200 SPLEEN: Thermal damage to surface layers. No other changes appreciated.

201  
202 Representative sections of thymus, heart, pancreas, liver, adrenal, and brain show no evidence  
203 of diagnostic abnormalities.

204  
205 **PATHOLOGIC DIAGNOSES**

206  
207 I. Clinical history of house fire.

208  
209 II. Inhalation of products of combustion with:

210 A. Carbonaceous material noted in esophagus, trachea, and primary bronchi.

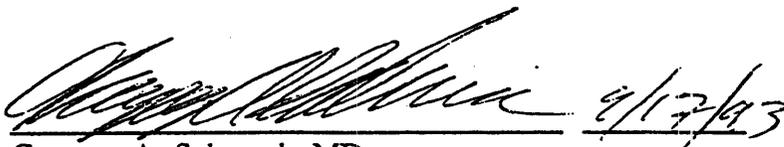
211 B. Mild cherry pink discoloration of soft tissues.

212 C. Postmortem carboxyhemoglobin level of 45%.

213  
214 III. Extensive thermal burns to all body surfaces with thermal coagulation of major body  
215 organs.

216  
217 **CAUSE OF DEATH**

218  
219 INHALATION OF PRODUCTS OF COMBUSTION AND TOTAL BODY THERMAL  
220 BURNS.

221  
222  
223  
224  
225  8/17/93  
226 Gregory A. Schmunk, MD  
227 Forensic Pathologist

228  
229 GAS:sks

230  
231 D: 07-08-93

232 T: 07-17-93



SCENE

Page 2

93-2359/60

33 dwelling the body is placed upon a clean white sheet and the debris is carefully removed  
34 from the body surface revealing total charring of all body surfaces. One foot has been  
35 detached from the body and is recovered adjacent to the body. The hands are both burned  
36 free and are not recovered. The calvarium is fractured extensively exposing the underlying  
37 brain tissue. The majority of the internal organs are also exposed. The body has assumed a  
38 classic pugilistic attitude. No clothing fragments are identified on the body surfaces. There  
39 does however appear to be a metal necklace present around the neck.  
40

41 The second body is removed from the scene in a similar manner. Examination of this  
42 decedent reveals that the pugilistic attitude is unusual in that there is posterior flexure of the  
43 back and also of one arm which is broken at the elbow joint. There is a portion of carpet and  
44 underlying padding material which is tightly adherent to the largely fractured posterior  
45 calvarium. This body shows small fragments of apparent clothing present on several of the  
46 upper body surfaces and around the neck. This decedent was originally prone in the rubble.  
47 Of note is that there is area of clearing of the charring of the body present over the buttock  
48 region indicating that the body has been rolled over from its original position at the time of  
49 the fire.  
50

51 Both of the bodies are then transferred to clean white sheets and packaged in body bags.  
52 Fragments of tissue and bone debris from the bodies are separately packaged in plastic bags.  
53

54 I depart the scene at approximately 1740 hours.  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62

 7/20/93  
Gregory A. Schmunk, MD  
Forensic Pathologist

GAS:sks

D: 07-07-93

T: 07-08-93



OFFICE OF THE  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

SACRAMENTO COUNTY

STEVE WHITE  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

TIMOTHY M. FRAWLEY  
CHIEF DEPUTY

September 10, 1993

DEPARTMENT OF CORONER

[REDACTED] CA 95817

LAB NO: L93-4883-02  
SUBJECT: [REDACTED]  
AGENCY NO: 93-2359

ATTN: SYNHORST/SCHMUNK

TOXICOLOGY REPORT

Heart Blood: 45% carboxyhemoglobin saturation

ROBERT A. JARZEN  
LABORATORY DIRECTOR

*James D. Beede*  
JAMES D. BEEDE  
CRIMINALIST

Reviewed by: *ayp 9-16*

JDB/mcg

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
SACRAMENTO COUNTY

STEVE WHITE  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

DEPARTMENT OF CORONER  
4400 V Street  
Sacramento, CA 95817

Lab #: 93-04883-002

Subject: UWMJ #1

Coroner #: 93-02359

ATTN: SYNHORST/GAS

BLOOD ALCOHOL REPORT

---

SAMPLE TYPE: HEART BLOOD

RESULT: NONE DETECTED

---

Date Received: 07/09/93

Date Analyzed: 07/13/93

Date Reported: 07/15/93

Analyst: James Gardner

---

LABORATORY OF FORENSIC SERVICES

4400 V Street \* Sacramento, CA 95817-1496

(916) 732-3840 \* FAX (916) 732-9620



**CORONER OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY  
CORONER'S INVESTIGATION**

Case No. 93-2360

DATE July 7, 1993	TIME 1044	REPORTED BY: Sacramento County Communications
RECEIVED BY Beard/Greene	DEPUTY ASSIGNED Synhorst	

**CLASSIFICATION** Accidental Fire

DECEDENT PERSONAL DATA	1a Name - First [REDACTED]	1b Middle [REDACTED]	1c Last [REDACTED]	2a Date of Death 7-7-93	2b Time 1039
	M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/>	4 Race White	5 SSN [REDACTED]	6 Date of Birth 9-2-90	7 Age 2

RESIDENCE	9a Usual Address [REDACTED] 95841	9b City Sacramento	9c County Sacramento
-----------	--------------------------------------	-----------------------	-------------------------

PLACE OF DEATH	10a Place of Death Residence	10b County Sacramento
	10c Street Address [REDACTED] 95841	10d City Sacramento

CAUSE OF DEATH	11 INHALATION OF PRODUCTS OF COMBUSTION AND TOTAL BODY THERMAL BURNS
----------------	--

INJURY INFORMATION	12 Accident, Suicide, etc. Accident	13 Place of Injury Residence	14 At Work? No	15a Date of Injury 7-7-93	15b Hour approx. 1015
	16 Location [REDACTED]		17 Describe how injury occurred Decedent involved in house fire.		

RELATIVES	18a Names (Relationship) Mo [REDACTED]	18b Address [REDACTED]	18c Phone [REDACTED]
-----------	---	---------------------------	-------------------------

NOTIFICATION	19a Who Notified Mother at scene	19b How Notified	19c By	19d Date	19e Time
--------------	-------------------------------------	------------------	--------	----------	----------

DESCRIPTION	20 Height 25	21 Weight 151 8"	22 Hair Unknown	23 Eyes Unknown	24 Teeth Natural	25 Tattoos/Scars None
-------------	-----------------	---------------------	--------------------	--------------------	---------------------	--------------------------

IDENTIFICATION	26 Remains identified by or how identified Family members
----------------	--

	27 Other Investigators SSD Det. Voudouris/Sacramento Co. Fire	28 Remains Removed By Morris and Morris Transport
--	--	--

PROPERTY	29 Property Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	30 Receipt # 01756	31 Released/Sealed By dna	32 Keys Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	33 Other
----------	---	-----------------------	------------------------------	---	----------

**CASE SUMMARY**

34

See attached supplement

930929HWE5023  
EXHIBIT D

Note: Cross reference with Coroner Case 93-2359, Jonathon Verkade



CORONER'S INVESTIGATION  
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME	LAST NAME	CASE NO.
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	93-2360

Two year old twins, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], lived at [REDACTED] Avenue in Sacramento with their mother, [REDACTED] and her male friend, [REDACTED]. On July 7, 1993, [REDACTED] was in the front yard area of the residence, cleaning an automobile which was parked on the front lawn. The twins remained unattended inside the residence. At approximately 1014 hours a passing motorist stopped and asked [REDACTED] if she was aware that the house was on fire. [REDACTED] ran to the front door of the residence and opened it but was unable to enter due to an intense blast of heat. Just as [REDACTED] attempted to enter the residence, Highway Patrol Officers from the nearby CHP-North Office arrived at the residence and began to attempt to extinguish the fire and to aid [REDACTED]. The Sacramento County Fire Department received a 9-1-1 call at 1014 hours and immediately dispatched fire units. Fire personnel began extinguishing the fire and searching for the children. At 1039 hours, fire personnel advised their dispatch center that both children had been located and were obviously expired.

This office was contacted by Sacramento County Communications and advised of the deaths. Deputy Coroner Miles responded to the scene, however, when he arrived he was advised by fire personnel that Sacramento County Sheriff's Detectives and Sacramento County Arson Investigators were being summoned to the residence. Miles returned to the Coroner's Office and at 1528 hours, I went to the scene. I was accompanied by Gregory Schmunk, MD and Guillermo Martinez-Torres, MD, Coroner Pathologists.

The bodies of both victims were found in the family room area of the house. The interior of the house had been extensively damaged by the fire with the most severe damage in the family room/kitchen area. The bodies had sustained almost total charring, along with numerous heat related extremity and skull fractures. Arrangements were made for both bodies to be transported to the Coroner's Office for autopsy. They were initially identified as Coroner Cases 93-2359 (Unidentified Twin 1) and 93-2360 (Unidentified Twin 2).

Coroner case 93-2359 appeared to be wearing a yellow metal necklace. [REDACTED] later identified the twin wearing the necklace as [REDACTED]. Our files were amended to reflect this information with case 93-2359 identified as [REDACTED] and 93-2360 identified as [REDACTED].

Subsequent autopsy and toxicology studies revealed the cause of death to be: Inhalation of Products of Combustion and Total Body Thermal Burns.

Sacramento County Fire Investigators examined the debris left after

1 OFFICE OF THE CORONER - SACRAMENTO COUNTY

2 [REDACTED] Coroner

3 [REDACTED] Investigator

4 [REDACTED] M.D., Pathologist

5 [REDACTED], CA 95817

6  
7 REPORT OF AUTOPSY

8  
9 NAME [REDACTED]

10 DATE OF AUTOPSY Thursday, July 8, 1993

CASE # 93-2360

11 AGE 2 ETHNICITY Caucasian SEX Male HT 25 " WT 15lbs 8oz

@ 1000 hrs

12  
13 EXTERNAL EXAMINATION

14  
15 The remains are received in a white body bag with an attached Coroner's identification tag  
16 with the case number present on it. Inside the body bag are the remains wrapped in a soiled  
17 white sheet. Also present is a large plastic bag containing multiple fragments of bone and  
18 tissue material as recovered by the undersigned at the scene. Also present is a smaller clear  
19 plastic bag containing bony fragments recovered at the scene by Inspector Campbell. The  
20 remains are those of an extensively charred, apparently Caucasian, apparently male child.  
21 The size of the remains is consistent with 2-4 years of age. The body shows signs of  
22 extensive thermal damage as described below. In addition there is a portion of carpet and  
23 padding material tightly adherent to the back of the head. Examination of posterior body  
24 surfaces reveals apparent thin burned fabric focally present on the body. Small fragments of  
25 this fabric including probable neck hemline are retained separately as evidence.

26  
27 Present within the large plastic bag are multiple fragments of bone, charred wood, and brain  
28 material. This amounts to approximately 360 grams. Present within the smaller bag are  
29 fragments of flat bone and a large segment of foot and attached tibia and fibula which has  
30 been disarticulated at the knee. The specimen is extensively charred. The remains show  
31 extensive charring as described below. There is a portion of relatively spared skin present  
32 over the left greater than right buttocks region which appears to show caucasoid skin. No  
33 other skin surfaces are noted. The body is otherwise well-preserved and it appears not to  
34 have been embalmed. It is cool to the touch and has been refrigerated.

35  
36 The head shows extensive thermal fracturing as described below. The soft tissues of the  
37 anterior face are essentially completely absent down to the level of the bone. There is  
38 extensive fracturing of the anterior teeth due to thermal damage. The ocular contents are  
39 coagulated and sunken within the head. The thoracic and abdominal organs are largely  
40 exposed with complete absence of the anterior cartilaginous portion of the thoracic cage.  
41 There is also absence of the right hand and bilateral lower extremities from the mid shafts of  
42 the femurs distally. No identifying markings are noted on the external body surfaces.

EXTERNAL EVIDENCE OF INJURY

- 45  
46  
47 1. There is extensive thermal damage to all body surfaces with charring of all of the skin  
48 surfaces sparing only a portion of the buttocks region as described above. The body is in  
49 a somewhat unusual attitude with pronounced extension of the thoracic and lumbar spine.  
50 In addition, the upper extremities are pulled backward. The upper extremities at the  
51 elbows do demonstrate the more classic pugilistic attitude. The cranial vault is ruptured  
52 and shows external beveling in several locations along the edges which extend from the  
53 superciliary ridges bilaterally down into the left temporal region at the edge of the middle  
54 fossa and then across posteriorly through the left parietal and occipital and then anteriorly  
55 to cross the midline in the mid parietal region. The fracture line extends then on the left  
56 posteriorly and inferiorly to involve the parietal and occipital calvarium and then extends  
57 across the right side of the head through the lateral aspect of the posterior and middle  
58 fossae. The brain is thus exposed and shows extensive thermal coagulation and imbedded  
59 soot. The soft tissues of the anterior face are entirely absent and the eyes are present as  
60 charred coagula. The nose is thermally absent. The anterior jaw and maxilla are exposed  
61 down to the level of the bone and the teeth are charred and fractured. This fracturing  
62 appears to extend into the lateral aspects of the mouth and involve all of the primary  
63 dentition exposing the mandibular dentition to the level of the roots. The skin surfaces  
64 over the entire anterior aspect of the trunk are absent exposing the edges of the  
65 cartilaginous joints of the ribs bilaterally. The heart and bilateral lungs are visible through  
66 the coagulated and thermally damaged debris. The liver protrudes from the body.  
67 Multiple loops of small bowel demonstrate coagulation as they extend through the anterior  
68 aspect of the abdominal wall.  
69

70 The upper extremities bilaterally show a pugilistic attitude as described above. There is  
71 absence of the right hand. A post burn fracture is present at the left elbow joint with the  
72 tissues surrounding this fracture being markedly firm and tense. A portion of the left  
73 hand is present as a small coagulum of charred tissue. The lower extremities demonstrate  
74 thermal absence below the level of the mid shaft of the femurs which have a brittle and  
75 charred appearance. The proximal thigh demonstrates absence of soft tissue down to the  
76 level of the coagulated musculature. The back demonstrates extensive thermal damage  
77 and charring, however, the epithelial layers remain largely present. The buttocks are  
78 relatively spared as described above.  
79

PRIMARY INCISION & BODY CAVITIES

80  
81  
82 The body is opened anteriorly, revealing extensive thermal damage as described above. The  
83 organs are anatomically disposed and no unusual fluid accumulations are noted. The

84 musculature of the retroperitoneum is bright red. The abdominal fat thickness cannot be  
85 assessed due to the thermal damage.  
86

### 87 INTERNAL EVIDENCE OF INJURY

- 88
- 89 1. There is a epidural hematoma present in the midline of the occiput measuring  
90 approximately 2" in greatest dimension. This is separated from the nearest fracture by  
91 approximately 1".  
92
  - 93 2. There is partial charring of the inferior aspects of both lungs, the heart, and the majority  
94 of the liver.  
95
  - 96 3. There is extensive soot deposition throughout the esophagus, trachea, and main stem  
97 bronchi.  
98

### 99 INTERNAL EXAMINATION

100

101 HEAD: The brain is removed through the fractured calvarium and demonstrates extensive  
102 thermal coagulation. The structures of the base of the brain and cerebellum are relatively  
103 more preserved but are somewhat friable. The leptomeninges in this region have a pinkish-  
104 red appearance. Sectioning of the brain reveals no evidence of hemorrhage or anomaly. The  
105 removal of the dura from the base of the skull reveals epidural hemorrhage posteriorly as  
106 described above but no evidence of basilar fracture. The foramen magnum demonstrates the  
107 normal orientation, and the first portion of the spinal cord, viewed through the foramen  
108 magnum, is unremarkable.  
109

110 NECK ORGANS: Examination of the soft tissues, cartilaginous and bony structures of the  
111 neck demonstrate extensive thermal damage as described above. No hemorrhages or fractures  
112 are appreciated.  
113

114 CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM: The heart weighs 42 grams. Examination of the  
115 epicardium shows extensive charring. The chambers demonstrate their usual shape and  
116 configuration. The coronary arteries appear normally disposed but cannot be followed  
117 throughout their length due to the thermal damage. Cut surfaces of the myocardium  
118 demonstrate subendocardial staining which is dark red. The remaining myocardium  
119 demonstrates a thermally coagulated light tan-brown appearance. The valves are intact with  
120 the usual anatomic relationships. The atria are unremarkable. The aorta follows its usual  
121 course. The origins of the major vessels are normally disposed and unremarkable. The great  
122 vessels of the venous return are in their usual position and are unremarkable.

## AUTOPSY

123 RESPIRATORY SYSTEM: The larynx and trachea show extensive soot deposition  
124 throughout their length. They are continuous in the usual manner with the primary bronchi  
125 which also show soot deposition. The right and left lungs weigh 132 and 120 grams,  
126 respectively. The pleural surfaces are smooth and glistening with the exception of thermal  
127 damage as described above. The cut surfaces reveal a firm, thermally coagulated in the lower  
128 lobes bilaterally. The upper lobes demonstrate moderate edema and congestion. There is no  
129 evidence of consolidation or enlargement of the air spaces. The pulmonary vessels occupy  
130 their usual relationships without evidence of emboli.

131  
132 HEPATOBILIARY SYSTEM: The liver weighs 308 grams and has an extensively charred  
133 capsular surface. Cut surfaces show the usual anatomic landmarks with a reddish-brown firm,  
134 thermally coagulated parenchyma. The gallbladder is not identified in the charred remains.

135  
136 LYMPHORETICULAR SYSTEM: The spleen weighs 39 grams and has a partially charred  
137 capsule and a partially coagulated parenchyma which appears to show the usual anatomic  
138 features. The thymus appears roughly of normal configuration and weighs 12 grams. The  
139 parenchyma is essentially unremarkable. There is no evidence of lymphadenopathy.

140  
141 URINARY SYSTEM: The right and left kidneys weigh 38 and 28 grams respectively. The  
142 cortical surfaces demonstrate partial charring and the parenchyma is largely coagulated.  
143 There is good preservation of the cortex and good corticomedullary differentiation. The  
144 pelves show the usual anatomic relationships and are continuous into normal-appearing ureters  
145 which insert into a partially thermally damaged bladder containing approximately 50cc of  
146 pink urine.

147  
148 INTERNAL GENITALIA: The inguinal region is explored sharply revealing a portion of  
149 apparent penile shaft present within the coagulum. Deeper exploration reveals a left testis  
150 which is sampled into cassette #1.

151  
152 GASTROINTESTINAL TRACT: The pharynx and esophagus are unremarkable with the  
153 exception of a pale pink coloration and extensive quantities of soot present down to the level  
154 of the stomach. The stomach lies in a normal position and is ruptured do to thermal damage  
155 in the mid fundus. There is no residual gastric content noted. The stomach is continuous  
156 into a normal-appearing duodenum and small bowel with the exception of thermal damages  
157 described above. Multiple loops of small and large bowel have ruptured. The appendix is  
158 not identified within the coagulated bowel of the right lower quadrant.

160 ENDOCRINE SYSTEM: The thyroid, adrenals, and pancreas show the usual anatomic  
161 features with the exception of thermal damage as described above. The pituitary gland is not  
162 recovered.

163  
164 MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM: Thermal fractures are identified above. There is no  
165 evidence of other fracturing noted. The skeletal muscle demonstrates a bright red appearance  
166 where it is not thermally coagulated. The bone marrow is unremarkable.

167  
168 ASSISTANTS Leslie Poole,  
169 Mark Pinto  
170 Robert W. Wood, RN, FNP, Supervisor

171  
172 TISSUES FOR TOXICOLOGY Heart blood, urine, and liver.

173  
174 TISSUES FOR HISTOLOGY Heart, lung, spleen, liver, kidney, pancreas, adrenal, main  
175 stem bronchus, left testis, thymus, and brain.

176  
177 WITNESSES Inspector Jeff Campbell, Sacramento County Fire Department  
178 and Detective Ted Voudouris, Sacramento Sheriff's  
179 Department.

180  
181 MICROSCOPIC DESCRIPTION

182  
183 LUNG: Congestion and edema with black soot lining small bronchi and trachea.

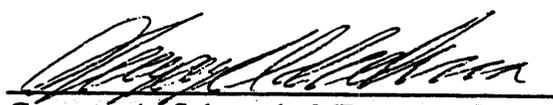
184  
185 Representative sections of adrenal, heart, , testes, kidney, thymus, spleen, liver, and brain  
186 show no evidence of diagnostic abnormalities.

**PATHOLOGIC DIAGNOSES**

- I. Clinical history of house fire.
- II. Inhalation of products of combustion with:
  - A. Soot deposition throughout airways and esophagus.
  - B. Cherry red discoloration of soft tissues.
  - C. Condition of specimen precludes postmortem carboxyhemoglobin determination.
- III. Extensive total body thermal burns.

**CAUSE OF DEATH**

**INHALATION OF PRODUCTS OF COMBUSTION AND TOTAL BODY THERMAL BURNS**

 9/17/93  
 Gregory A. Schmunk, MD  
 Forensic Pathologist

**GAS:sks**

**D: 07-08-93**

**T: 07-17-93**



SCENE

Page 2

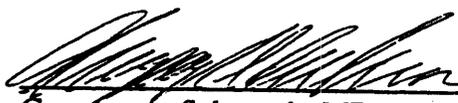
93-2359/60

33 dwelling the body is placed upon a clean white sheet and the debris is carefully removed  
34 from the body surface revealing total charring of all body surfaces. One foot has been  
35 detached from the body and is recovered adjacent to the body. The hands are both burned  
36 free and are not recovered. The calvarium is fractured extensively exposing the underlying  
37 brain tissue. The majority of the internal organs are also exposed. The body has assumed a  
38 classic pugilistic attitude. No clothing fragments are identified on the body surfaces. There  
39 does however appear to be a metal necklace present around the neck.  
40

41 The second body is removed from the scene in a similar manner. Examination of this  
42 decedent reveals that the pugilistic attitude is unusual in that there is posterior flexure of the  
43 back and also of one arm which is broken at the elbow joint. There is a portion of carpet and  
44 underlying padding material which is tightly adherent to the largely fractured posterior  
45 calvarium. This body shows small fragments of apparent clothing present on several of the  
46 upper body surfaces and around the neck. This decedent was originally prone in the rubble.  
47 Of note is that there is area of clearing of the charring of the body present over the buttock  
48 region indicating that the body has been rolled over from its original position at the time of  
49 the fire.  
50

51 Both of the bodies are then transferred to clean white sheets and packaged in body bags.  
52 Fragments of tissue and bone debris from the bodies are separately packaged in plastic bags.  
53

54 I depart the scene at approximately 1740 hours.  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59

60  7/20/93  
61 \_\_\_\_\_  
62 Gregory A. Schmunk, MD  
Forensic Pathologist

GAS:sk

D: 07-07-93

T: 07-08-93



OFFICE OF THE  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

SACRAMENTO COUNTY

STEVE WHITE  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

TIMOTHY M. FRAWLEY  
CHIEF DEPUTY

September 16, 1993

DEPARTMENT OF CORONER

[REDACTED] CA 95817

LAB NO: L93-4883-01  
SUBJECT: Vercade, Jacob  
AGENCY NO: 93-2360

ATTN: SYNHORST/SCHMUNK

TOXICOLOGY REPORT

Heart Blood: Sample too congealed for analysis; sample quantity limited.

ROBERT A. JARZEN  
LABORATORY DIRECTOR

*James D. Beeede*  
JAMES D. BEEDE  
CRIMINALIST

Reviewed by: *af* 9-22

JDB/mcg

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
SACRAMENTO COUNTY

STEVE WHITE  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

DEPARTMENT OF CORONER  
4400 V STREET  
Sacramento, CA 95817

Lab #: 93-04883-001

Subject: UWMJ #2

Coroner #: 93-02360

ATTN: SANTOS/ANTHONY

BLOOD ALCOHOL REPORT

---

SAMPLE TYPE: HEART BLOOD

RESULT: NOT CONDUCTED

\*\*\* NOTE SAMPLE TOO CONGEALED FOR ANALYSIS; SAMPLE QUANTITY LIMITED.

---

Date Received: 07/13/93

Date Analyzed:

Date Reported: 07/15/93

Analyst: James Gardner

---

LABORATORY OF FORENSIC SERVICES

4400 V Street \* Sacramento, CA 95817-1496

(916) 732-3840 \* FAX (916) 732-9620



PHOTOGRAPH 59 :  
The scene.



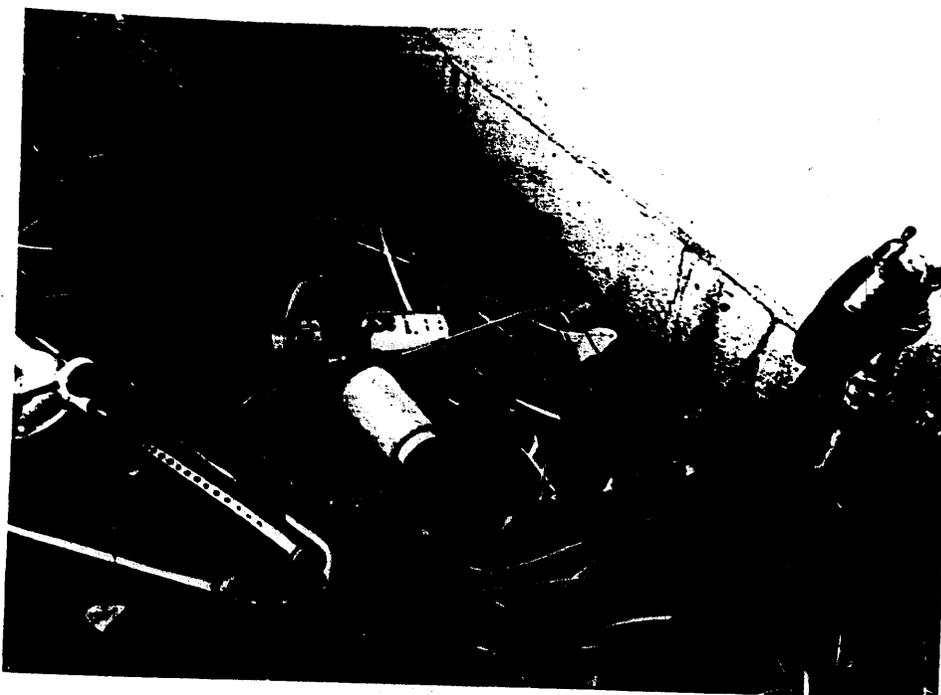
PHOTOGRAPH 60 :  
The scene.



PHOTOGRAPH 57:  
The scene.



PHOTOGRAPH 58:  
The scene.



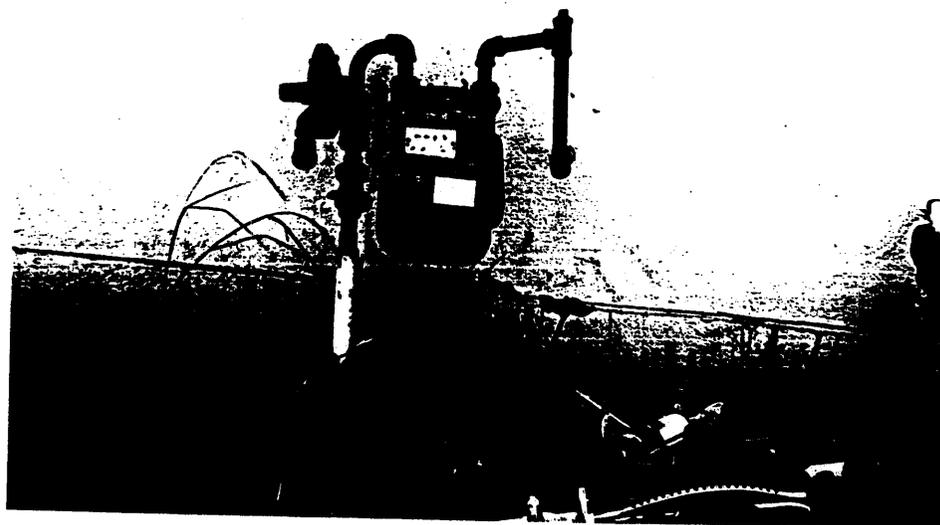
PHOTOGRAPH 55:  
The scene.



PHOTOGRAPH 56:  
The scene.



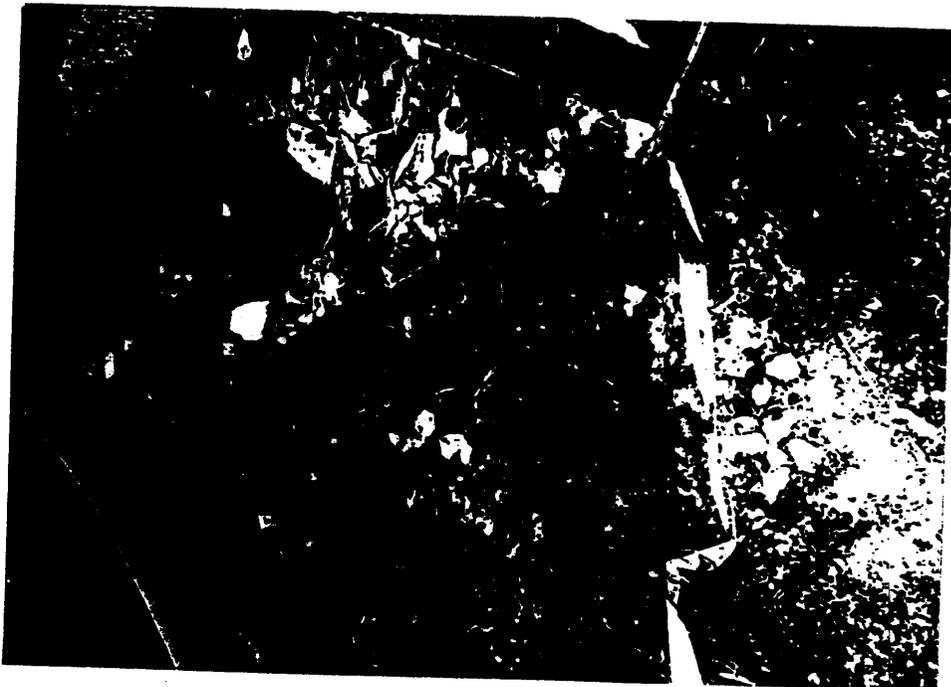
PHOTOGRAPH 53:  
The scene.



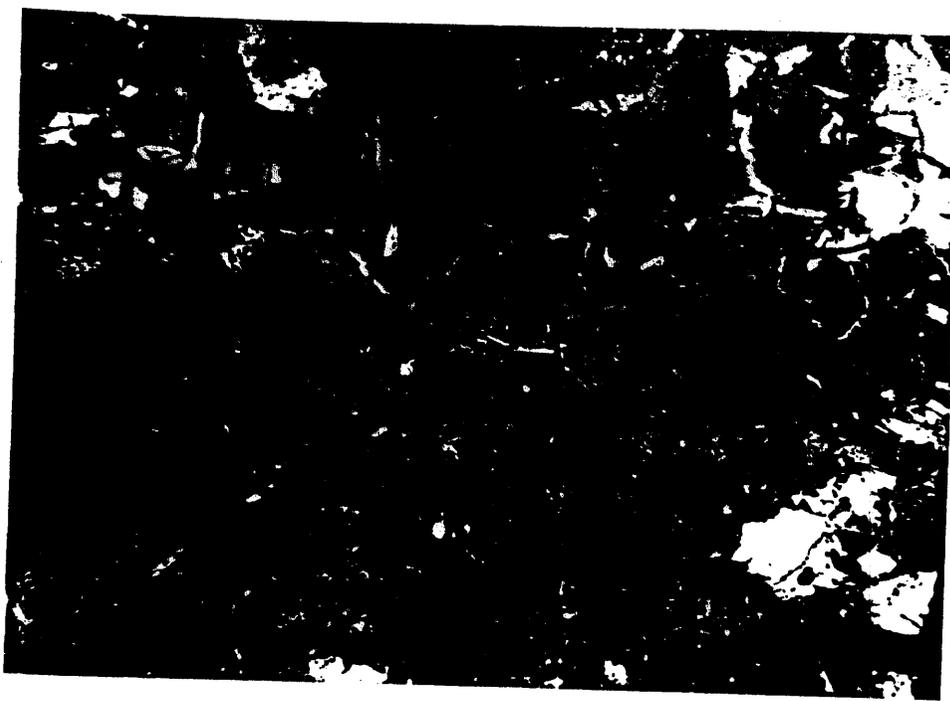
PHOTOGRAPH 54:  
The scene.



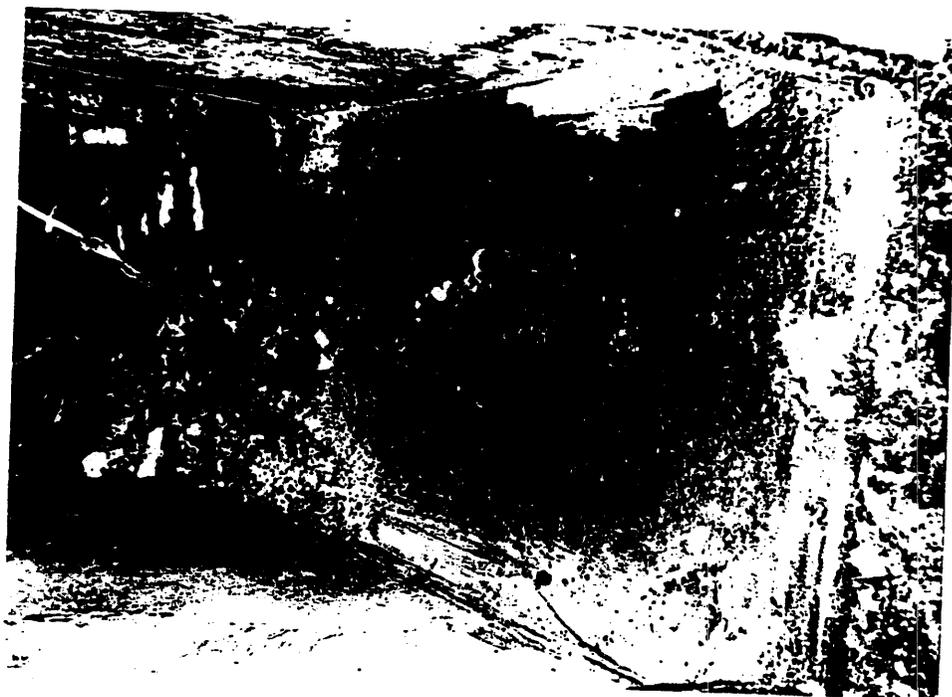
PHOTOGRAPH 51:  
The scene.



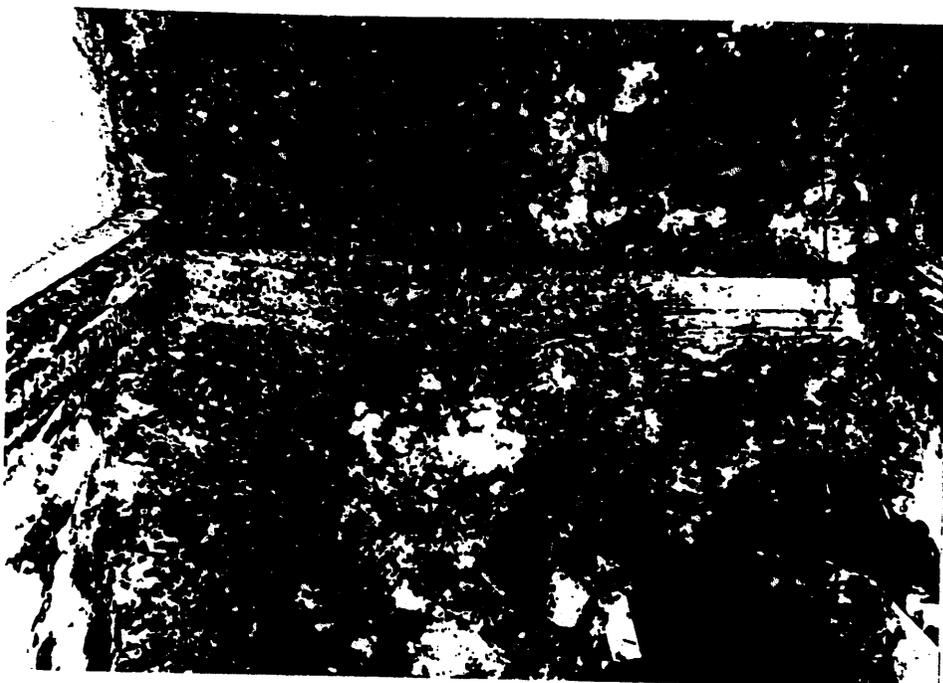
PHOTOGRAPH 52:  
The scene.



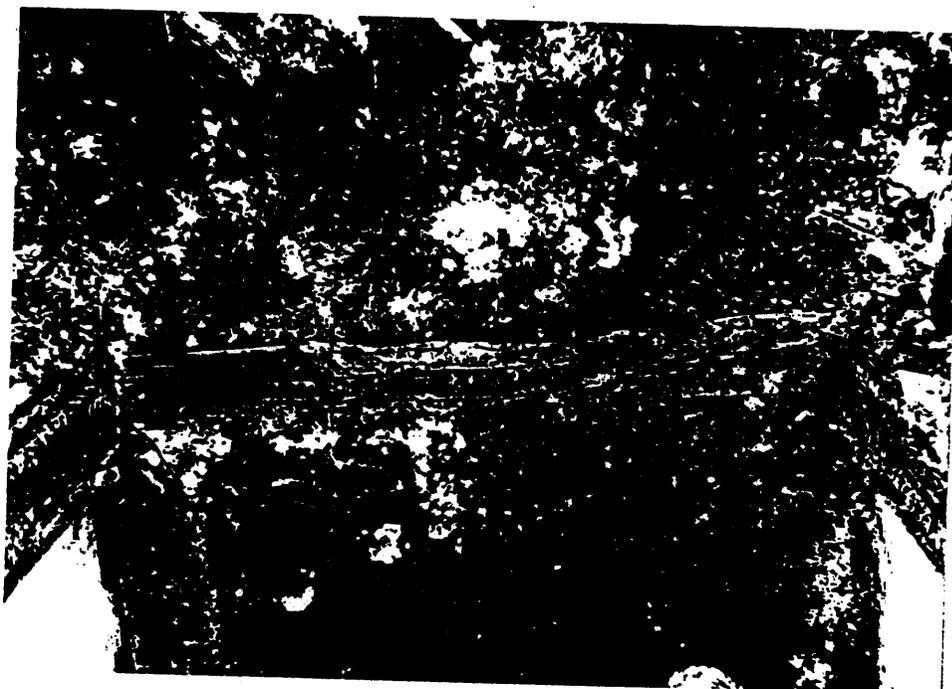
PHOTOGRAPH 49 :  
The scene.



PHOTOGRAPH 50 :  
The scene.



PHOTOGRAPH 47 :  
The scene.



PHOTOGRAPH 46 :  
The scene.



PHOTOGRAPH 45:  
The scene.



PHOTOGRAPH 46:  
The scene.



PHOTOGRAPH 43 :  
The scene.



PHOTOGRAPH 44 :  
The scene.

930929HWE5023



PHOTOGRAPH 41 :  
The scene.



PHOTOGRAPH 42:  
The scene.

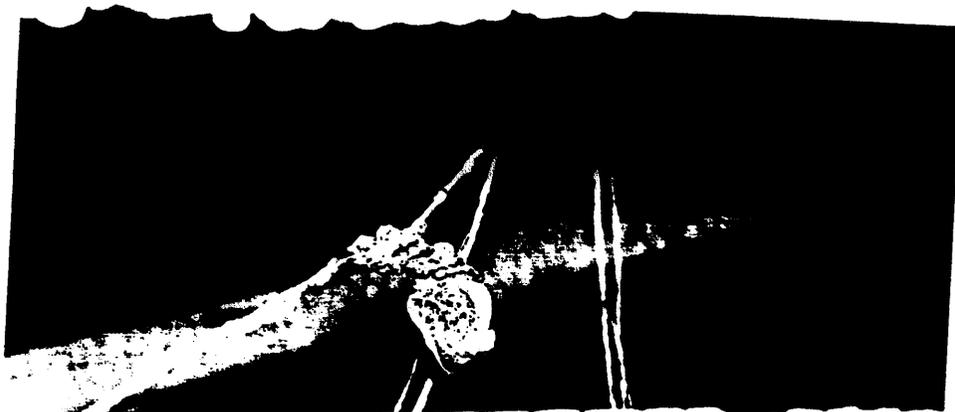
930929HWE5023



PHOTOGRAPH 39:  
The scene.



PHOTOGRAPH 40:  
The scene.



PHOTOGRAPH 37 :  
The scene.



PHOTOGRAPH 38 :  
The scene.



PHOTOGRAPH 35:  
The scene.



PHOTOGRAPH 36:  
The scene.



PHOTOGRAPH 33 :  
The scene.



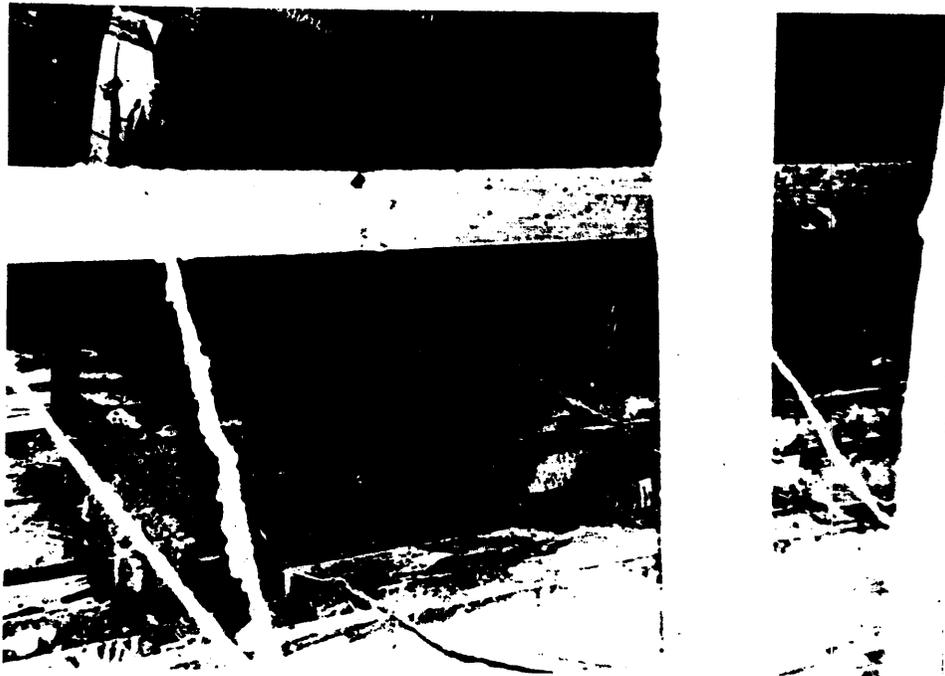
PHOTOGRAPH 34 :  
The scene.



PHOTOGRAPH 31 :  
The scene.



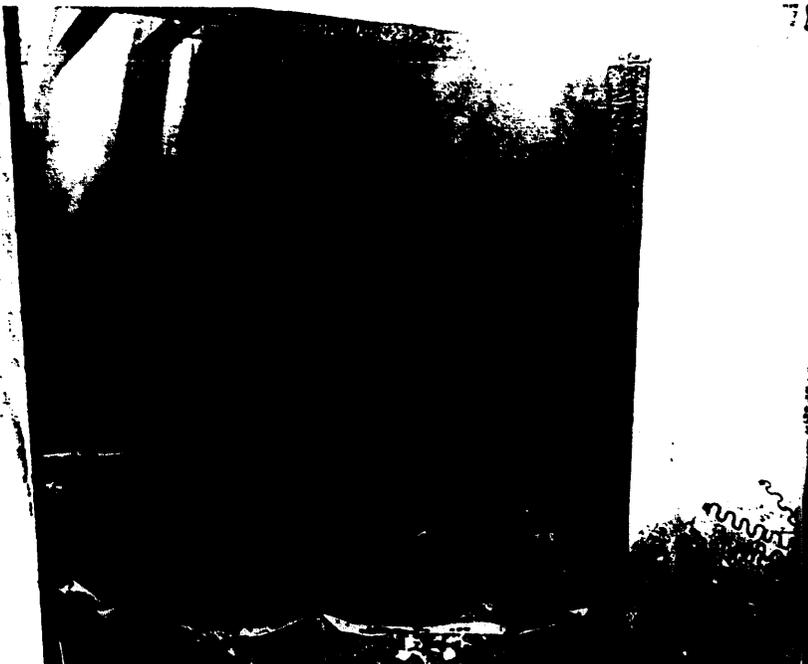
PHOTOGRAPH 32 :  
The scene.



PHOTOGRAPH 29:  
The scene.



PHOTOGRAPH 30:  
The scene.



PHOTOGRAPH 27:  
The scene.



PHOTOGRAPH 28:  
The scene.



PHOTOGRAPH 25:  
The scene.



PHOTOGRAPH 26:  
The scene.



PHOTOGRAPH 23:  
The scene.



PHOTOGRAPH 24:  
The scene.



PHOTOGRAPH 21:  
The scene.



PHOTOGRAPH 22:  
The scene.



PHOTOGRAPH 19:  
The scene.



PHOTOGRAPH 20:  
The scene.



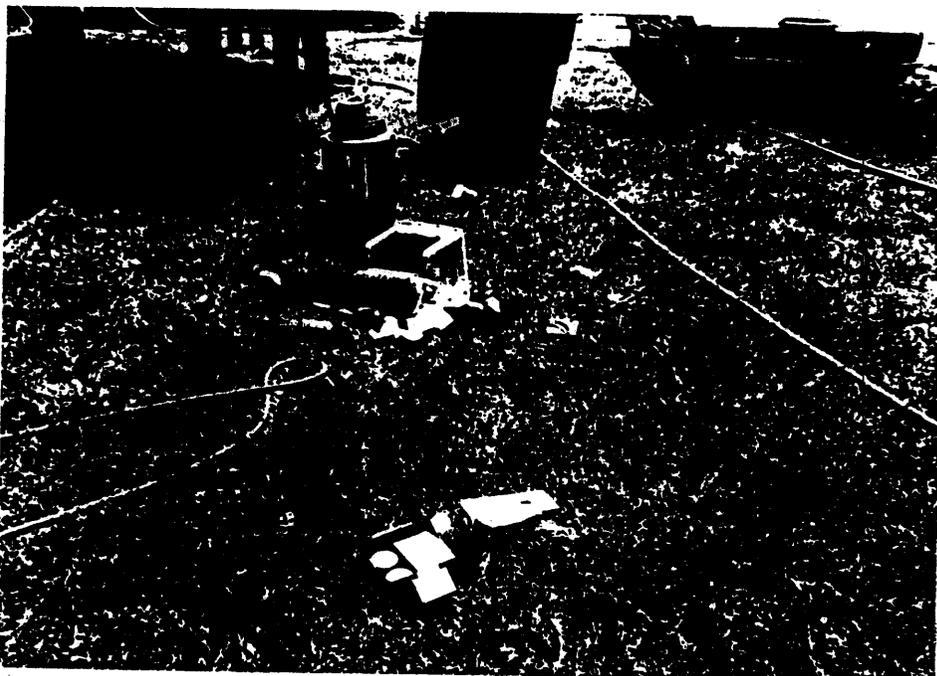
PHOTOGRAPH 17 :  
The scene.



PHOTOGRAPH 18 :  
The scene.



PHOTOGRAPH 15:  
The scene.



PHOTOGRAPH 16:  
The scene.



PHOTOGRAPH 13 :  
The scene.



PHOTOGRAPH 14 :  
The scene.



PHOTOGRAPH 11 :  
The scene.



PHOTOGRAPH 12 :  
The scene.



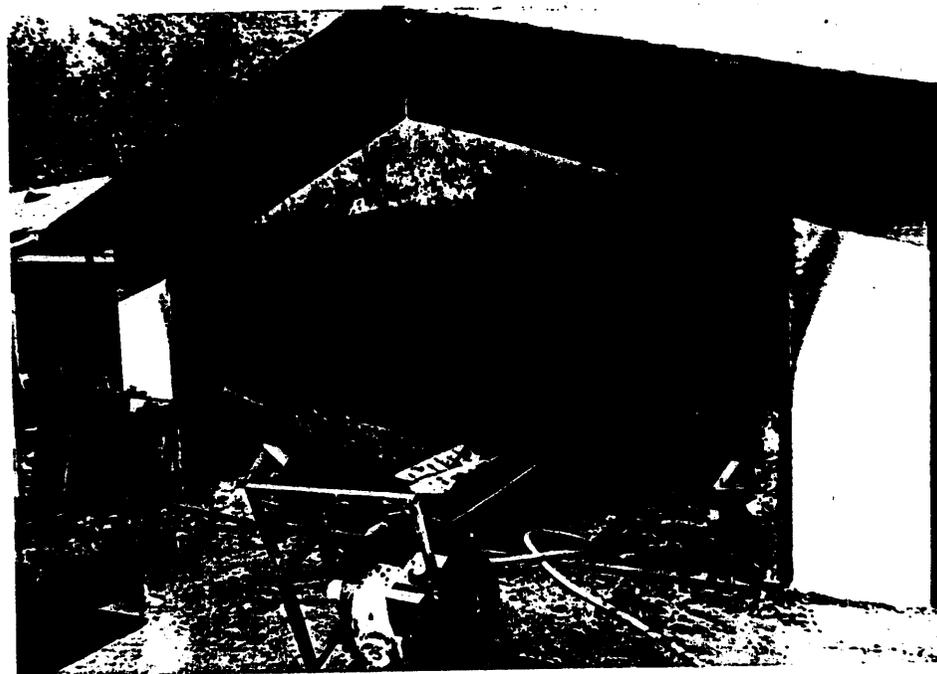
PHOTOGRAPH 9 :  
The scene.



PHOTOGRAPH 10 :  
The scene.



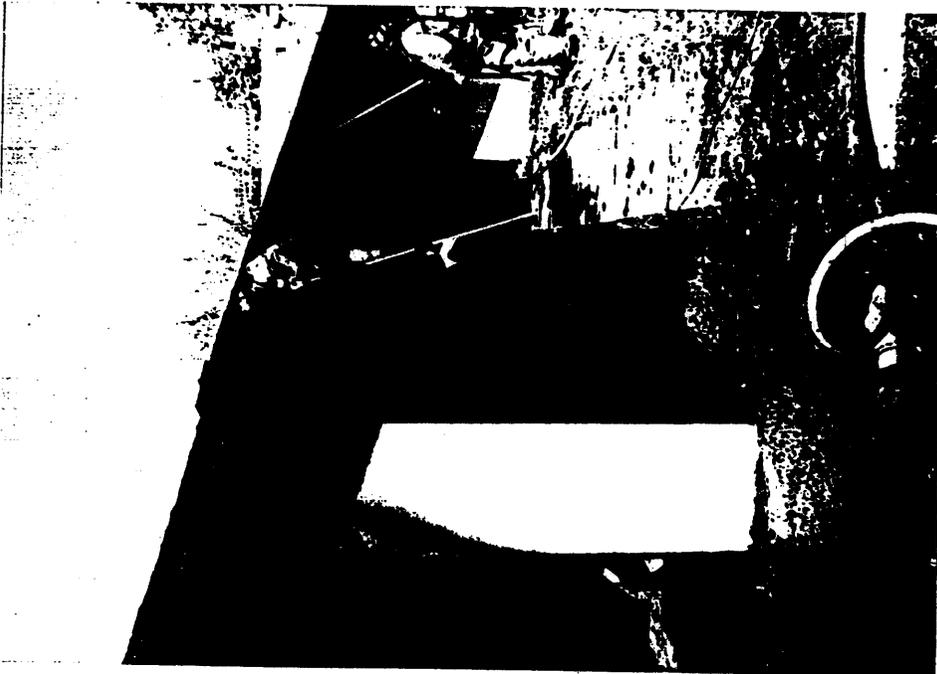
PHOTOGRAPH 7 :  
The scene.



PHOTOGRAPH 8 :  
The scene.



PHOTOGRAPH 5 :  
The scene.



PHOTOGRAPH 6 :  
The scene.

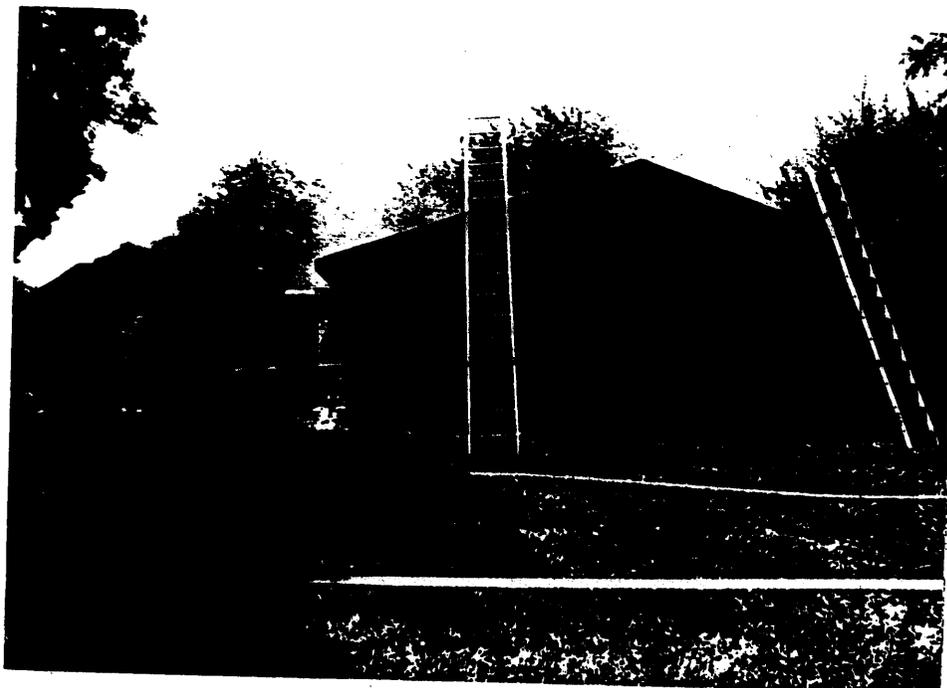


**PHOTOGRAPH 3:**  
The scene.



**PHOTOGRAPH 4:**  
The scene.

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PHOTOGRAPH 1:  
The scene.



PHOTOGRAPH 2:  
The scene.