



Crescent City Fire & Rescue
 Station: **001**
 Shifts Or Platoon: **Administration**

Location: Howland Hill and Bertsch Howland Hill Crescent City CA 95531 Bertsch	Incident Type: 111 - Building fire
Lat/Long: N 41° 45' 28.94" W 124° 9' 38.83"	FDID: 08010 Incident #: 2021-579 Exposure ID: 57651196 Exposure #: 0 Incident Date: 05/02/2021
Zone: District - District Location Type: 2 - Intersection Cross Street, Directions or National Grid: Bertsch	

Report Completed by:	Wakefield , Ryan	ID:	Date: 05/04/2021
Report Reviewed by:	Gillespie , Bill	ID:	Date: 12/29/2021
Report Printed by:	Duncan, Vanessa	ID:	Date: 6/3/2024 Time: 16:16

Structure Type: Enclosed building	Property Use: 808 - Outbuilding or shed		
Automatic Extinguishment System Present: <input type="checkbox"/>	Detectors Present: <input type="checkbox"/>	Cause of Ignition: Cause under investigation	
Aid Given or Received: Mutual aid received	Primary action taken: 10 - Fire control or extinguishment, other		
Losses	Pre-Incident Values	Civilian Injuries: 0	Fire Service Injuries: 0
Property: \$300,000.00	Property: \$300,000.00	Civilian Fatalities: 0	Fire Service Fatalities: 0
Contents: \$300,000.00	Contents: \$300,000.00	Total Casualties: 0	Total Fire Service Casualties: 0
Total: \$600,000.00	Total: \$600,000.00		
Total # of apparatus on call:	8	Total # of personnel on call:	15

Special Studies	
COVID 19 was a factor in this incident.	No, COVID 19 was not a factor.

Neighboring Agencies
Agency Name: CALFIRE Agency ID: Agency Type: Fire
Agency Name: California Highway Patrol Agency ID: Agency Type: Law
Agency Name: Del Norte Sheriffs Office Agency ID: Agency Type: Law
Agency Name: Fort Dick Fire Agency ID: Agency Type: Fire

NARRATIVE (1)

Narrative Title: Incident Narrative

Narrative Author: Wakefield, Ryan

Narrative Date: 05/07/2021 08:46:13

Narrative Apparatus ID: BC-Rg

Narrative:

On 05/02/2021 at approximately 2306 hours Crescent City Fire and Rescue was dispatched to the corner of Howland Hill Road near Bertsch Avenue for a report of barn on fire.

I received the initial dispatch and immediately requested mutual aid from Pelican Bay State Prison (Fire) for this incident and responded. The first arriving unit on scene was 5114 with one Fire Personnel on board. Upon his arrival he reported heavy fire conditions and relayed that this will be a large incident.

While en route I heard Cal Fire E-1275 responding (automatic aid).

Upon receiving 5114's report on conditions I radioed for Ft. Dick Fire Protection District and requested 1 Engine and 1 Water tender via dispatch.

As soon as I turned onto Howland Hill Road from Elk Valley Road I could see a very large orange column coming from the dispatch area.

Upon arrival I made my way around 5114 which had spotted at the access point to the well involved barn and proceeded down Bertsch in an effort to gain situational awareness from multiple sides of the barn. While sizing up the scene from my vehicle I was approached by a man who told me that he had noticed the fire and subsequently heard a women screaming and three gunshots.

While hearing out the witness I began fearing for his safety based on the intense amount of radiant heat that the barn was producing. My biggest concern was the overhead power lines that came together near the intersection and their proximity to the fire building. I asked the witness to move towards Howland Hill Road and to standby there while I finished processing the scene for operational priorities and responder safety.

I parked my vehicle and began assigning responding personnel. It was at this point that I noted the extremely heavy fire conditions, The roof had self vented and the fire was producing a extremely large convection column.

E5114 had gained entry to the property through the gate and had established water supply at the closest fire hydrant. E-1275 arrived and began forward laying supply line from the second closest hydrant west on Howland Hill Rd. (Later in the incident I learned that they didn't have enough supply line to make the front of the fire)

I conducted a quick "hot lap" of the structure and noted nothing out of the ordinary regarding the screaming woman and possible gunshots. I developed the following operational considerations:

1. Responder safety, this was a defensive fire and the risk tolerances needed to remain consistent with values at risk.
2. The power lines at the front corner as the primary exposure as they were critical to both Responder safety as well as suppression access
3. The surrounding vegetation because of the multiple vehicles engulfed in the brush and its ability to carry and spread fire.
4. Relatively low response level for this size of incident.
5. The need to manage an effective span of control.
6. Water supply to support the defensive fire operations.
7. The need for an Arial master stream effectively placed to reach the seat of the fire.

I also noted that the building had good access to all sides and aside from the power lines, a handful of "junk cars" and green vegetation relatively low exposure risk.

While crews were working toward laying a lengthy supply line of Large Diameter Hose I assigned Battalion Chief Rook as Division Alpha. I also asked E-1275 to make his way around to the back of the structure off of Bertsch and to assume Div. C.

The Divisions were actively engaged with their assigned personnel directing tactics and suppression efforts.

The list below is how all of the resources were assigned :

Command :

R. Wakefield I.C.

Safety J. Gregorio B5106

Div. A- Rook B5108

E-5114

E-5111

E-4130 (CDCR FIRE)

E-5181

Div. C B. Ellison (CAL FIRE E-1275 Captain)

E-1275 (CAL FIRE)

WT-5159

WT-86 (FDFD)

E-82 (FDFD)

Staging (apparatus only- Personnel were reassigned to Divisions)

R-5172

U-5175

E-5112

As resources continued arriving and water was secured I radioed for Pacific Power and requested a second tone of Crescent City Fire and Rescue and asked dispatch to specifically request T-5181.

The second tone rendered both BC Gregorio and Captain Butz. They successfully coordinated the arrival of the truck. Butz operated T-5181 in coordination with Div. A (Rook) upon arrival. Gregorio staged E-5112 for secondary response and I assigned him as the incident Safety Officer.

Pacific power arrived and secured the power from the pole. The lineman was also concerned about the radiant heat on their pole and lines in the area. Collectively, we made the determination to leave the lines in place and monitor them for heat exposure and not to de-energize the surrounding neighborhood.

The remainder of the Fire continued to play out according to plan with a few minor exceptions. We made the determination to re-locate the Aerial for more effective water penetration. This was a time intensive move but we felt that the benefits would outweigh the time.

I arranged for traffic control with the California Highway patrol. They closed Howland hill and Bertsch for fire only traffic.

I met with a Sergeant and Deputy from DNSO regarding the witness statements and arranged for the witness to speak with them.

The buildings owner (Walter Gregory) arrived and had a discussion with him. He told me that the barn was 120' by 120'. He added that the contents included a forklift, backhoe Firewood, boats, a machine shop and 30-35 cars. He had no idea how this fire could have started and did say that there was power to the building. He remained on scene until 0135.

At approximately 0210 I released Ft. Dick Fire units and at 0221 the fire was under control and clean up began. Based on the status of the remaining structure I elected to not make any entry to the building for mop up or salvage.

Fire units remained on scene until 0300 hours on the 3rd.

APPARATUS

Fire Controlled Date / Time:		5/3/2021 2:21:00 AM	
Unit	BC-Rg	Unit	E5114
Type:	Chief officer car	Type:	Engine
Use:	Other	Use:	Suppression
Response Mode:	Lights and Sirens	Response Mode:	Lights and Sirens
# of People	1	# of People	1
Alarm	05 /02/2021 23:06:00	Alarm	05 /02/2021 23:06:00
Dispatched	05 /02/2021 23:06:00	Dispatched	05 /02/2021 23:06:00
Enroute	05 /02/2021 23:09:00	Enroute	05 /02/2021 23:09:00
Arrived	05 /02/2021 23:18:00	Arrived	05 /02/2021 23:13:00
Cancelled	-- /-- /-- -- :-- :--	Cancelled	-- /-- /-- -- :-- :--
Cleared Scene	05 /03/2021 03:05:00	Cleared Scene	05 /03/2021 03:05:00
In Quarters	-- /-- /-- -- :-- :--	In Quarters	-- /-- /-- -- :-- :--
In Service	-- /-- /-- -- :-- :--	In Service	-- /-- /-- -- :-- :--
Unit	E5111	Unit	W5159
Type:	Engine	Type:	Tanker or tender
Use:	Suppression	Use:	Suppression
Response Mode:	Lights and Sirens	Response Mode:	Lights and Sirens
# of People	5	# of People	2
Alarm	05 /02/2021 23:06:00	Alarm	05 /02/2021 23:06:00
Dispatched	05 /02/2021 23:06:00	Dispatched	05 /02/2021 23:06:00
Enroute	05 /02/2021 23:09:00	Enroute	05 /02/2021 23:09:00
Arrived	05 /02/2021 23:19:00	Arrived	05 /02/2021 23:29:00
Cancelled	-- /-- /-- -- :-- :--	Cancelled	-- /-- /-- -- :-- :--
Cleared Scene	05 /03/2021 03:05:00	Cleared Scene	05 /03/2021 03:05:00
In Quarters	-- /-- /-- -- :-- :--	In Quarters	-- /-- /-- -- :-- :--
In Service	-- /-- /-- -- :-- :--	In Service	-- /-- /-- -- :-- :--
Unit	S5175	Unit	E5112
Type:	Support apparatus, other	Type:	Engine
Use:	Other	Use:	Suppression
Response Mode:	No Lights or Sirens	Response Mode:	Lights and Sirens
# of People	2	# of People	1
Alarm	05 /02/2021 23:06:00	Alarm	05 /02/2021 23:06:00
Dispatched	05 /02/2021 23:06:00	Dispatched	05 /02/2021 23:06:00
Enroute	05 /02/2021 23:35:00	Enroute	05 /02/2021 23:20:00
Arrived	05 /02/2021 23:45:00	Arrived	05 /02/2021 23:28:00
Cancelled	-- /-- /-- -- :-- :--	Cancelled	-- /-- /-- -- :-- :--
Cleared Scene	05 /03/2021 03:05:00	Cleared Scene	05 /03/2021 03:05:00
In Quarters	-- /-- /-- -- :-- :--	In Quarters	-- /-- /-- -- :-- :--
In Service	-- /-- /-- -- :-- :--	In Service	-- /-- /-- -- :-- :--
Unit	T5181	Unit	R5172
Type:	Truck or aerial	Type:	Rescue unit
Use:	Suppression	Use:	Other
Response Mode:	No Lights or Sirens	Response Mode:	Lights and Sirens
# of People	1	# of People	2
Alarm	05 /02/2021 23:06:00	Alarm	05 /02/2021 23:06:00
Dispatched	05 /02/2021 23:06:00	Dispatched	05 /02/2021 23:06:00
Enroute	05 /02/2021 23:35:00	Enroute	05 /02/2021 23:12:00
Arrived	05 /02/2021 23:40:00	Arrived	05 /02/2021 23:23:00
Cancelled	-- /-- /-- -- :-- :--	Cancelled	-- /-- /-- -- :-- :--
Cleared Scene	05 /03/2021 03:05:00	Cleared Scene	05 /03/2021 03:05:00
In Quarters	-- /-- /-- -- :-- :--	In Quarters	-- /-- /-- -- :-- :--
In Service	-- /-- /-- -- :-- :--	In Service	-- /-- /-- -- :-- :--

Number Of People not on apparatus: 0

FIRE			
Acres Burned	None or Less Than One	Acres Burn From Wildland Form	False
Area Of Fire Origin	Undetermined	Heat Source	Undetermined
Item First Ignited	Undetermined	Fire Is Confined To Object Of Origin	
Type Of Material	Undetermined	Cause Of Ignition	Cause under investigation
Factor Contributing To Ignition	Undetermined		
Human Factors Contributing	None		

STRUCTURE FIRE			
Structure Type	Enclosed building	Building Status	In normal use
# Of Stories At Above Grade	1	# Of Stories Below Grade	0
Square Feet		Length	120
Width	120	Floor Of Origin	1
Fire Spread	Beyond building of origin		
Minor Damage	0	Significant Damage	0
Heavy Damage	0	Extreme Damage	1

ARSON			
Case Status	Availability Of Material First Ignited		
Investigation open	Unknown		
Entry Method	Extent Of Fire Involvement On Arrival	Container	
Unknown			

CUSTOM FIELDS FORM	
Was this incident transient related?	NO

Member Making Report (Ryan Wakefield): _____

Incident Reviewer (Chief Bill Gillespie): _____