

Village of
Elmwood Park



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May 2, 2011

Mr. Travis Ebbings
Nicor Gas Claims Department
1844 Ferry Road 7W
Naperville, Illinois 60563

Dear Mr. Ebbings:

I am in receipt of your Illinois Freedom of Information Act (5 ILCS 140/1 *et. seq.*) (hereinafter referred to as "FOIA"), request received by the Village of Elmwood Park on May 2, 2011 requesting "the Fire Run Report for the fire which occurred on 5/1/ 2011. Location: 1924 N. 75th Ct. ,Elmwood Park."

Enclosed please find a fire investigation report forwarded to this office by the Elmwood Park Fire Department.

Should you have any questions please contact the Elmwood Park Fire Department.

Sincerely,

Elsie Sutter
Freedom of Information Officer
Enclosures

BY FAX -630-983-8174

Fire Investigation

1924 N. 75th Court

Elmwood Park, Illinois

Investigator: Capt. Michael G. Collins

This is an investigative report of a fire that occurred on May 1st, 2011, at 3:15 a.m., at 1924 75th Court in Elmwood Park. The structure is a 2 story brick Georgian with a one story brick addition at the rear of the structure. (Approx. 15" x 15') (See sketch and photo disk) There is a detached 2 ½ car garage and side drive. There were no unusual building construction circumstances of note in this structure. The owner and sole occupant of this structure is Andrew James Carbonaro. (708-878-9633)

The examination and documentation of the scene took place initially under artificial light (Street and portable lighting), and later under natural daylight in clear weather conditions, 37 degrees Fahrenheit, and SW winds at 8-10 mph.

I interviewed Andrew James Carbonaro at 3:51 a.m., on May 1st, 2011, on the 1900 block of 75th Court in Elmwood Park. Mr. Carbonaro stated his date of birth as 8-24-1982. He stated that he owns the house at 1924 N. 75th Ct., and that he lives there alone. He stated that he has the house insured through State Farm Insurance, the John Nuzzo Agency, 7428 Belmont, Chicago, Illinois. (773-889-3900)

Mr. Carbonaro stated that he was not home at the time of the fire in his home. He stated that he was at a friend's house, that of Nick Rada, at 1714 77th Ave. in Elmwood Park. He stated that he had gone to Mr. Rada's home earlier in the evening and shared a pizza there. He stated that he fell asleep there and was awakened by a phone call from his sister, Nicole Terzo, informing him that the alarm company had called her when the alarm was activated. Mr. Carbonaro went to his home when he learned of the fire and was briefly interviewed by Off. Sam Frasco of the Elmwood Park Police Department.

I learned through neighbor interviews that Mr. Carbonaro was at his house earlier in the day and that he had mowed his lawn at around 3 p.m. that afternoon. Mr. Carbonaro stated that he was at his house up until the early evening at which time he went to the home of Nick Rada.

He stated that Nick Rada had called him and asked him to come to his house. This is consistent with my discussion with Mr. Rada.

Several neighbors reported hearing a loud 'boom' at about 3:15 a.m. This is consistent with the timing of the numerous 9-1-1 calls from people in the area. The initial arriving Shift Commander, Capt. A. Budnik, reported light smoke issuing from the roof and rear addition of the fire structure. He reported that the premises appeared to be secure and that no doors were found opened or unlocked. He found that the fire was in the rear of the structure, hereinafter referred to as the 'addition'. (The location of the 'addition' is depicted in the attached sketch and photographs)

Suppression consisted of exterior attack on the fire that could be seen inside the addition, and an interior attack that went through the side door (south side of the structure) and into the interior. Capt. Budnik noted that side door referred to above had been secured with wood screws. This door, as well as the front door, was breached by firefighters. The windows in the addition were all blown out by the explosion. All other windows throughout the structure were removed by fire suppression crews. FF. Dennis Argyrakis was one of the initial attack crew that entered the structure. He reported that the stove in the kitchen had all four range top burners lit when he entered the house. He reported that he shut them off. He reported that they had relit at some point after he had shut them off. Mr. Carbonaro stated that he had not used the stove in weeks as he does not often cook.

The initial investigation was a walk-around size-up from which I noted glass blown throughout the back yard and driveway in a 35-50 foot circumferential pattern. This glass was not sooted or blackened and was in pieces from as large as 1 ½ feet to as small as minute shards. The scene indicated that a low order explosion had taken place. Bricks from the addition littered the area around it for about 10 feet from the structure. The west wall of the addition had a sliding glass door and large picture window. These were blown out by the explosion. The south exterior wall of the addition was completely pushed away from the structure with almost all bricks having fallen into the yard. The north wall was noticeably bowed out from the pressure of the explosion but remained standing. Brick that remained attached to the structure showed evidence of having been pushed out by internal pressure within the room.

Interior investigation showed that the addition had been involved in fire. There was heavy charring and alligatoring in the floor joist area at the most westerly portion of the addition. The majority of the fire in the addition appeared to have been in the floor joist area. There were no discernable burn patterns on the walls. All the furniture and appliances that were in the addition were destroyed. There was little or no fire damage to the ceiling area of the addition. Investigation reveals that there was fire in the joist area of the addition and that there was little or no fire at the ceiling level.

This does not appear to be a traditional room and contents fire. There was no evidence of careless smoking, an overheated appliance, or an electrical fire. There is no gas appliance or gas wall heater in the addition. No gas supply pipe enters the area of the addition. The existing gas pipes inside the house do not enter the addition area at any point. Only the supply ducts from the furnace in the main house breach the west wall and enter the addition. These ducts enter the addition at the floor joist level and travel westward through the floor along the floor joists.

State Fire Marshal Mitch Kushner used his canine to ascertain if any flammable liquids were present inside the structure. There was no positive determination by the dog. Mr. Kushner assisted with the remainder of the investigation.

Northern Illinois Gas Co. was on the scene within an hour of the call that was placed to them. NiCor eventually called in several supervisors who documented the scene and tried to determine if natural gas was in any way involved. They went door to door in the area in an attempt to determine if any gas leaks were present in the surrounding structures. They reported finding no anomalies in the system.

In summary, at this time, the investigation of this fire is incomplete and its cause remains undetermined. What is known is that an explosion occurred and a fire followed the explosion. The fire was by and large limited to the floor joist area of the addition, although there was some fire within the room space of the addition. No fire damage occurred in the main (original) part of the structure. A point of ignition cannot be determined, nor can the initial fuel package that met with the source of ignition be determined. At this time, the cause of this fire is undetermined.

A CN212 IL 5/01/11 Both Stations 03-2011-0000880-000 NFIRS - 1
FDID State Incident date Station Incident number Basic
No 8110 SW QUADRANT ELPK Street address Yes
Alternative location Census tract Location Emergency
1924 75TH CT, ELMWOOD PARK, IL, 60707 Address

C Building fire
Incident type

D Automatic aid received
Aid given or received

E1 Date Time E2 BLACK SHIFT SOUTH OF TRACKS
Alarm 5/01/11 3:15:41 Shift Alarms District
Dispatch 5/01/11 3:17:05
Enroute 5/01/11 3:19:15
Arrival 5/01/11 3:21:42
Controlled 0/00/00 0:00:00
Last unit cleared 5/01/11 8:26:45

F Extinguishment by fire service personnel
Primary action taken (1) Salvage & overhaul
Search Additional action taken (2)

Additional action taken (3)

G1 Yes Apparatus Personnel No G2 Losses Value
Apparatus/ Suppression 7 3 Resource counts | Property 25000 250000
personnel EMS 1 2 include aid | Contents 75000 125000
form used other 0 0 received resources |

H1 Injuries Deaths | H2 Detector alerted occupants | H3 None
Fire service 0 0 | Detector | Hazardous materials release
Civilian fire 0 0 |

I Not mixed use
Mixed use property | J 1 or 2 family dwelling
Property use

M ALLAN BUDNIK Shift Commander 5/01/11
Officer in charge Position or rank Assignment Date

ELMWOOD PARK FIRE DEPARTMENT
Prepared: 5/02/11, 11:05:51
Program: FI200L

Incident Report

A CN212 IL 5/01/11 Both Stations 03-2011-0000880-000 NFIRS - 2
FDID State Incident date Station Incident number Fire

B1 1 C None On-site material 1 Material 1 storage use
Estimated number of residential units

B2 1
Number of buildings involved

B3 None
Acres burned (outside fires)

D1 Function areas, other E1 Cause undetermined after investigation
Area of fire origin Cause of ignition

D2 Undetermined E2 None
Heat source Factor 1 contributing to ignition

D3 Undetermined E3 None
Item first ignited Human factors contributing to ignition

Spread confined to object of origin NO

D4 Undetermined
Type of material first ignited

F1 None F2
Equipment involved in ignition Equipment power

Brand F3
Model Equipment portability

Serial number
0000
Equipment year

G Delayed detection of fire
Fire suppression factor 1

H1 None H2
Mobile property involved Mobile property type

Mobile property make

Mobile property model
0000

Year License plate State VIN

A CN212 IL 5/01/11 Both Stations 03-2011-0000880-000 NFIRS - 3
FDID State Incident date Station Incident number Structure fire
I1 Enclosed building I2 Undetermined
Structure type Building status

I3 2 1 I4 2000
Stories at/above grade Stories below grade Total square feet

J1 1 No J3
Story of fire origin Below grade J3 Minor Significant Heavy Extreme
Number of stories (1-24%) (25-49%) (50-74%) (75-100%)
J2 Confined to room of origin damaged by flame 0 1 0 0
Fire spread

K Yes

No flame spread OR same as material first ignited OR unable to determine

L1 Present L3 Hard wire with battery L5 There were no occupants
Presence of detectors Detector power supply Detector effectiveness

L2 Combination smoke & heat in a s L4 Detector operated
Detector type Detector operation

M1 None present
Presence of extinguishing system

A CN212 IL 5/01/11 Both Stations 03-2011-0000880-000 NFIRS - 9/10
 FDID State Incident date Station Incident number Apparatus/Personnel

Apparatus	Type	Personnel	Use	Action taken	Emergency
EPME	Engine	0	Suppression		Yes
	Dispatched				
	Enroute				
	At Scene				
	In Service				
	In Quarters				

Apparatus	Type	Personnel	Use	Action taken	Emergency
EPMT	Truck or aerial	0	Suppression		Yes
	Dispatched				
	Enroute				
	At Scene				
	In Service				
	In Quarters				

Apparatus	Type	Personnel	Use	Action taken	Emergency
940	Chief officer car	0	Suppression		Yes
	Dispatched				
	Enroute				
	At Scene				
	In Service				

Apparatus	Type	Personnel	Use	Action taken	Emergency
941	Chief officer car	0	Suppression		Yes
	Dispatched				
	Enroute				
	At Scene				
	In Service				

Apparatus	Type	Personnel	Use	Action taken	Emergency
944	ALS unit	2	EMS		Yes
	Dispatched				
	Enroute				
	At Scene				
	In Service				
	In Quarters				

Employee	Assignment	Position	Action taken
820 RICHARD M. ARMENTANO JR.	Paramedic	Paramedic	
5717 KEITH LANGELE	Paramedic	Paramedic	

Apparatus	Type	Personnel	Use	Action taken	Emergency
945	Truck or aerial	0	Suppression		Yes
	Dispatched				
	Enroute				
	At Scene				
	In Service				
	In Quarters				

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A  CN212 IL      5/01/11  Both Stations  03-2011-0000880-000  NFIRS - 9/10
  FDID State  Incident date  Station  Incident number  Apparatus/Personnel
=====
B  Apparatus  Type      Engine  Dispatched  Enroute  At Scene  In Service  In Quarters  Personnel  Use  Action taken  Emergency
  947
  Dispatched  Engine  5/01/11  3:17:05
  Enroute    5/01/11  3:19:25
  At Scene   5/01/11  3:21:42
  In Service  5/01/11  4:54:19
  In Quarters 5/01/11  4:57:20
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Employee  Assignment  Position  Action taken
1393 ROSARIO PIRAINO  Lieutenant
1394 JOE DROZD       Engineer   Firefighter
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B  Apparatus  Type      Chief officer car  Personnel  Use  Action taken  Emergency
  949
  Dispatched  5/01/11  3:17:05  1  Suppression
  Enroute    5/01/11  3:19:17
  At Scene   5/01/11  3:21:43
  In Service  5/01/11  6:10:45
  In Quarters 5/01/11  6:13:09
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Employee  Assignment  Position  Action taken
1410 ALLAN BUDNIK  Shift Commander  Shift Commander
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ELMWOOD PARK FIRE DEPARTMENT
Prepared: 5/02/11, 11:05:51
Program: FI200L

Incident Report

A CN212 IL 5/01/11 Both Stations 03-2011-0000880-000 Additional information
FPID State Incident date Station Incident number

ELMWOOD PARK FIRE DEPARTMENT
Prepared: 5/02/11, 11:05:51
Program: FI200L

Incident Report

A CN212 IL 5/01/11 Both Stations 03-2011-0000880-000
FDID State Incident date Station Incident number
Narratives

B Narrative type: Incident

Narrative title Entered by employee
CAD: DISPATCH INFORMATION 5/01/11
110003516
BUILDING FIRE REAR HOUSE FLAMES

Narrative title Entered by employee
CAD: CM WRIGHT 5/01/11

ROSA 773 619 2504 1915 75 CT

Narrative title Entered by employee
CAD: CM WRIGHT 5/01/11

BLK SMOKE COMING FROM THE ROOF

Narrative title Entered by employee
CAD: CM WRIGHT 5/01/11

COMPLETELY ENGULF

Narrative title Entered by employee
CAD: CM HOFSTRA 5/01/11

(03:23:32 ON 05/01/11) NOTIFY CHEIF CALLBACK AND NOTIFY ULTITIES

Narrative title Entered by employee
CAD: CM HOFSTRA 5/01/11

(03:23:32 ON 05/01/11) NOTIFY CHEIF CALLBACK AND NOTIFY ULTITIES

Narrative title Entered by employee
CAD: CM HOFSTRA 5/01/11

(03:26:43 ON 05/01/11) NICOR NOTIFIED W/IN HOUR BRANDY

Narrative title Entered by employee
CAD: CM KIEDAISCH 5/01/11

CHIEF MARINO NOTIFIED

Narrative title Entered by employee
CAD: CM HOFSTRA 5/01/11

(03:28:34 ON 05/01/11) COMM ED NOTIFIED 02376112 TICKET NUMBER WILL
CALLBACK W/ETA

Narrative title Entered by employee
CAD: CM KIEDAISCH 5/01/11

ELMWOOD PARK FIRE DEPARTMENT
Prepared: 5/02/11, 11:05:51
Program: FI200L

Incident Report

A CN212 IL 5/01/11 Both Stations 03-2011-0000880-000 Incident number Narratives

B Narrative type: Incident
Narrative title
CAD: CM KIEDAISCH
Entry date Entered by employee
5/01/11

RF AND EP CALLBACKS COMPLETED

Narrative title Entered by employee
CAD: CM HOFSTRA 5/01/11

(03:30:32 ON 05/01/11) PER 949 UPDATE BACK WALL PUSHED OUT AND 1 LINE WORKING ON INTERIOR, CREW DOING SEARCH AND CREW IN BASEMENT

Narrative title Entered by employee
CAD: CM HOFSTRA 5/01/11

(03:37:47 ON 05/01/11) PER 949 GAS SHUT OFF POWER BEING WORKED ON 1 LINE IN INTERIOR FIRE UNDER CONTROL AND OVERHAUL STARTE 1ST, 2ND AND BASEMENT SEARCH DONE AND NEGATIVE 0339HRS NOTIFY DIV 20 IN

Narrative title Entered by employee
CAD: CM KIEDAISCH 5/01/11

COMED ETA 20MIN

Narrative title Entered by employee
CAD: CM HOFSTRA 5/01/11

(03:45:12 ON 05/01/11) PER 949 IT APPEARS IT A NICOR ISSUE

Narrative title Entered by employee
CAD: CM HOFSTRA 5/01/11

(03:52:37 ON 05/01/11) DIV 20 ADVISED SO FAR ONLY 1 MAYWOOD UNIT W/FIU EN RTE WAITING ON RESPONCES FROM OTHER DEPTS 949 NOTIFIED

Narrative title Entered by employee
CAD: CM HOFSTRA 5/01/11

AND 949 ADVISED HE HAS 1 INVEST ON SCN ALREADY

Narrative title Entered by employee
CAD: CM WRIGHT 5/01/11

ADVISE 949 HE HAS ONE AT STA 1 AND ASK HIM IF HE WANTS TO DO ANOTHER CALL BACK

Narrative title Entered by employee
CAD: CM KIEDAISCH 5/01/11

PER 949 HOLD OFF ON 2ND CALL BACK

A CN212 IL 5/01/11 Both Stations 03-2011-0000880-000
FDID State Incident date Station Incident number Narratives

B Narrative type: Incident
Narrative title
CAD: CM HOFSTRA

Entry date Entered by employee
5/01/11

(04:00:06 ON 05/01/11) 949 NOTIFIED THAT ROSEMONT NOT AVAIL W/INVESTR
BUT PHOTO UNIT WILL BE EN RTE WHEN CLEAR ANOTHER JOB, AND 949 UPDATED
ALMOST COMPL AND ALL COMPANIES ACCOUNTED FOR 45MIN INTO INCIDENT
(04:02:03 ON 05/01/11) PER 949 COMM ED ON SCN AND GOING TO DENATURIZE
THE POLE

Narrative title
CAD: CM KIEDAISCH

Entry date Entered by employee
5/01/11

NICOR NOTIFIED SUPERVISOR REQUESTED, NICOR ADV TO WAIT TILL TECH GOT
ON SCENE TO DETERMINE IF A SUPERVISOR IS REQUIRED (04:34:26 ON
05/01/11)

Narrative title
CAD: CM HOFSTRA

Entry date Entered by employee
5/01/11

(04:34:03 ON 05/01/11) 949 UPDATED ALL UNITS ARE CLEAR LINES PICKED
UP JUST DOING PAPERWORK AND SCN TURNED OVER TO FIRE INVST

Narrative title
CAD: CM HOFSTRA

Entry date Entered by employee
5/01/11

((05:11:28 ON 05/01/11) PER DIV INCIDENT #44

Narrative title
CAD: CM HOFSTRA

Entry date Entered by employee
5/01/11

((05:11:28 ON 05/01/11) PER DIV 20 INCIDENT #44

Narrative title
CAD: CM KIEDAISCH

Entry date Entered by employee
5/01/11

REQ STATE FIRE MARSHALL BE NOTIFIED

Narrative title
Owner Info
Andrew Carbonaro

Entry date Entered by employee
5/01/11 1410 ALLAN BUDNIK