

Saratoga Springs, Utah
Natural Gas Explosion
February 06, 2007

Appendix # 14

Utah County Sheriff's Office

Incident Report 07UC01273

**3075 North Main
American Fork, UT 84660
(801)343-4000**

Note: Attachments such as video, photos, witness statements, and audio CD of incident Report 07UC01273 are not included in this Pipeline Safety Report. They are available from Utah County Sheriff's Office.



Utah County Sheriff's Office

Incident Report 07UC01273

Nature: FIRE
 Location: SUNRISE MEADOWS

Address: 953 W PRAIRIE DOG WAY
 Saratoga Spring UT 84045

Offense Reported: FIRE

Offense Observed: FIRE

Offense Codes: Fire Dead Body

Received By: Albee M

How Received: Telephone

Agency: UCSO

Responding Officers: Phillippi J Cannon J Bingham J Provstgaard J Jones J Knapp G Lessley J McDowell E Nez D
 Binks M Kantor J Randall J Brower M Monson J Scott J Abplanalp T Bell S Chappell J Stout M
 Harris N

Responsible Officers: Phillippi J

Disposition: Closed Case 04/03/07

When Reported: 16:13:23 02/06/07

Occurred Between: 16:01:34 02/06/07 and 16:01:34 02/06/07

Assigned To:

Detail: INV

Date Assigned: **/**/**

Status:

Status Date: **/**/**

Due Date: **/**/**

Radiolog:

Unit: 1J101

Enroute: 16:19:26 02/06/07

Arrived: 16:19:12 02/06/07

Completed:

Unit: 1J11

Enroute: 16:35:05 02/06/07

Arrived: 16:50:03 02/06/07

Completed:

Unit: 1J124

Enroute:

Arrived: 16:18:00 02/06/07

Completed:

Unit: 1J126

Enroute:

Arrived: 16:22:46 02/06/07

Completed: 17:11:19 02/06/07

Unit: 1J127

Enroute:

Arrived: 16:23:17 02/06/07

Completed: 19:14:12 02/06/07

Unit: 1J144

Enroute: 16:25:32 02/06/07

Arrived: 17:01:41 02/06/07

Completed: 23:08:31 02/06/07

Unit: 1J150

Enroute:

Arrived: 16:25:26 02/06/07

Completed:

Unit: 1J151

Enroute:

Arrived: 16:27:49 02/06/07

Completed: 23:06:52 02/06/07

Unit: 1J160	Enroute: 16:14:38 02/06/07 Completed: 23:06:34 02/06/07	Arrived: 16:17:20 02/06/07
Unit: 1J161	Enroute: 19:01:11 02/06/07 Completed: 17:50:30 02/06/07	Arrived: 16:23:13 02/06/07
Unit: 1J162	Enroute: 16:14:31 02/06/07 Completed: 02:56:41 02/07/07	Arrived: 16:17:31 02/06/07
Unit: 1J163	Enroute: Completed:	Arrived: 19:34:03 02/06/07
Unit: 1J166	Enroute: 19:03:06 02/06/07 Completed: 00:41:31 02/07/07	Arrived:
Unit: 1J167	Enroute: Completed: 02:56:59 02/07/07	Arrived: 16:41:21 02/06/07
Unit: 1J168	Enroute: Completed:	Arrived: 16:49:25 02/06/07
Unit: 1J200	Enroute: Completed: 01:00:09 02/07/07	Arrived: 16:34:14 02/06/07
Unit: 1J203	Enroute: Completed: 01:18:49 02/07/07	Arrived: 16:38:48 02/06/07
Unit: 1J204	Enroute: Completed:	Arrived: 16:45:21 02/06/07
Unit: 1J232	Enroute: 16:18:57 02/06/07 Completed: 18:50:24 02/06/07	Arrived: 16:18:53 02/06/07
Unit: 1J233	Enroute: 16:18:57 02/06/07 Completed: 18:27:49 02/06/07	Arrived:
Unit: AMB261	Enroute: 16:14:27 02/06/07 Completed: 00:26:57 02/07/07	Arrived: 16:20:16 02/06/07
Unit: AMB81	Enroute: 16:20:13 02/06/07 Completed: 18:25:23 02/06/07	Arrived: 16:29:34 02/06/07
Unit: ENG251	Enroute: 16:17:58 02/06/07	Arrived: 16:33:35 02/06/07

	Completed: 19:01:36 02/06/07	
Unit: ENG261	Enroute: 16:16:40 02/06/07 Completed: 00:59:18 02/07/07	Arrived:
Unit: FM11	Enroute: 17:42:34 02/06/07 Completed: 22:09:17 02/06/07	Arrived:
Unit: LF	Enroute: 16:19:19 02/06/07 Completed: 22:29:55 02/06/07	Arrived:
Unit: RES81	Enroute: 17:06:58 02/06/07 Completed: 00:26:42 02/07/07	Arrived:
Unit: STA260	Enroute: 16:14:06 02/06/07 Completed: 00:59:23 02/07/07	Arrived: 16:31:39 02/06/07
Unit: TRK51	Enroute: 17:06:58 02/06/07 Completed: 23:32:24 02/06/07	Arrived: 17:19:18 02/06/07
Unit: TRK81	Enroute: 17:03:22 02/06/07 Completed: 18:29:29 02/06/07	Arrived:

REPORTTEES:

Name: WHITE, ANNE Name Number: 201474
 Race: White Sex: F DOB: Hght: ' " Weight: 0 Hair: Eyes:
 Address: [REDACTED]
 Home Phone: [REDACTED] Work Phone: () -

VICTIMS:

Name: RADFORD, LARRY D. Name Number: 15200
 Race: B Sex: M DOB: Hght: 6'01" Weight: 169 Hair: BLK Eyes: BRO
 Address: [REDACTED]
 Home Phone: [REDACTED] Work Phone: () -

Name: ROPER, APRIL L. Name Number: 221894
 Race: W Sex: F DOB: Hght: 5'07" Weight: 125 Hair: BRO Eyes: BLU
 Address: [REDACTED]
 Home Phone: [REDACTED] Work Phone: () -

Name: ROPER, GREG G. Name Number: 221896
 Race: W Sex: M DOB: Hght: 5'11" Weight: 200 Hair: BRO Eyes: BLU
 Address: [REDACTED]
 Home Phone: [REDACTED] Work Phone: (801)225-7411

REDACTED
CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT
TO PROTECTIVE ORDER

REDACTED
CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT
TO PROTECTIVE ORDER

WITNESSES:

Name: EWERT, KRISTINA K. Name Number: 224138
 Race: W Sex: F DOB: Hght: 5'05" Weight: 135 Hair: BLN Eyes: BLU
 Address: [REDACTED]
 Home Phone: [REDACTED] Work Phone: [REDACTED]

Name: SOUTHWICK, RICHARD B. Name Number: 224141
 Race: W Sex: M DOB: Hght: 6'08" Weight: 250 Hair: BRO Eyes: GRN
 Address: [REDACTED]
 Home Phone: [REDACTED] Work Phone: [REDACTED]

Name: WHITTEKIEND, RYAN Name Number: 224144
 Race: W Sex: M DOB: Hght: 6'00" Weight: 230 Hair: BLN Eyes: BLU
 Address: [REDACTED]
 Home Phone: [REDACTED] Work Phone: [REDACTED]

Name: BRYANT, JACK E. Name Number: 224145
 Race: W Sex: M DOB: Hght: 6'00" Weight: 180 Hair: BRO Eyes: BLU
 Address: [REDACTED]
 Home Phone: [REDACTED] Work Phone: [REDACTED]

Name: PARRA, SANDY T. Name Number: 224146
 Race: L Sex: F DOB: Hght: 5'01" Weight: 113 Hair: BRO Eyes: BRO
 Address: [REDACTED]
 Home Phone: [REDACTED] Work Phone: [REDACTED]

Name: ROBLES MOLINA, MANUEL D. Name Number: 224150
 Race: L Sex: M DOB: Hght: 5'08" Weight: 150 Hair: BRO Eyes: BRO
 Address: [REDACTED]
 Home Phone: [REDACTED] Work Phone: [REDACTED]

PROPERTY INFORMATION:

Item Type: Miscellaneous Property Number: UC006618
 Item/Brand: Questar Model: Gas Meter
 Serial Number: Color: GRY/

Characteristics:
 Quantity: Meas: Total Value: 0
 Owner: , ,

Item Type: Tool-Box Property Number: UC006619
 Item/Brand: Model: plastic
 Serial Number: Color: /

Characteristics:
 Quantity: Meas: Total Value: 0

Owner: , ,

Item Type: Camera-Oth Type Property Number: UC006825
Item/Brand: Various Model: Various
Serial Number: Color: /

Characteristics:

Quantity: 9

Meas:

Total Value: 0

Owner: , ,

Item Type: Paper-Handwritt Property Number: UC006827
Item/Brand: Written Model: Statements
Serial Number: Color: /

Characteristics:

Quantity: 6

Meas:

Total Value: 0

Owner: , ,

NARRATIVE:

WHILE TRAVELING SOUTH IN SARATOGA SPRINGS, I NOTICED AN EXPLOSION IN THE AREA OF SUNRISE MEADOWS. I ARRIVED AND ASSISTED THE FIRE AND DETECTIVE UNITS. SEE OTHER SUPPLEMENTS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

SUPPLEMENTAL NARRATIVE :

Name: Phillippi J

Date: 02:08:54 02/07/07

02:50:26 02/07/2007 - Phillippi J

INITIAL OBSERVATIONS: ON FEB 6 2007, I WAS SOUTHBOUND OUT OF HARVEST HILLS SUBDIVISION WHEN I WITNESSED AN EXPLOSION IN THE AREA OF SUNRISE MEADOWS. I WAS IMMEDIATELY NOTIFIED BY DISPATCH OF A HOUSE THAT HAD EXPLODED AT 953 W PRAIRIE DOG WAY.

SCENE DESCRIPTION: I ARRIVED AND NOTICED SGT. CANNON ALREADY ON SCENE ATTEMPTING TO MOVE SPECTATORS BACK FROM THE HOME THAT WAS FULLY ENGULFED. I ALSO NOTICED THAT MOST OF THE HOUSE WAS BLOWN INTO PIECES ALL AROUND THE AREA. I ALSO NOTICED A MALE WHO WAS IN GREAT DISTRESS STATING THAT HIS WIFE WAS IN THE HOUSE WHEN IT EXPLODED. I WAS ALSO ADVISED THAT A EMPLOYEE FROM QUESTAR GAS WAS ALSO IN THE HOUSE.

ACTIONS TAKEN: I ASSISTED IN BACKING SPECTATORS AWAY FROM THE HOME FOR A POSSIBLE OTHER GAS LEAK IN THE AREA. SGT'S RANDALL AND JONES AND I SET UP A LOCATION FOR LIFE FLIGHT TO LAND TO ASSIST WITH ANY POSSIBLE WOUNDED VICTIMS.

I LOCATED AN 18 MO OLD FEMALE WHO WAS ONLY YARDS AWAY FROM THE EXPLOSION NAMED OLIVIA ROPER. SHE WAS BEING HELD BY HER FATHER GREG ROPER. I NOTICED THAT OLIVIA HAD SEVERAL CUTS AROUND HER FACE AND WAS CRYING. I ESCORTED GREG AND OLIVIA TO WAITING LIFE FLIGHT PERSONNEL FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT.

AFTER FIRE FIGHTERS PUT OUT THE FIRE, I ASSISTED IN GATHERING PHOTOS AND VIDEO WITH THE UTAH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE DETECTIVES. I ALSO ASSISTED IN GATHERING EVIDENCE FROM THE SCENE AND SECURING WITH THE EVIDENCE TECHNICIAN.

AFTER THE BASEMENT WAS CLEARED ENOUGH, A SEARCH OF THE TWO MISSING PERSONS WAS CONDUCTED. FIRE PERSONNEL LOCATED THE BODIES IN THE NORTH WEST AREA NEAR THE HEATER AND WATER HEATER FOR THE HOUSE. I ASSISTED IN THE PHOTO, VIDEO, AND RECOVERY OF THE VICTIMS.

ALL INFORMATION, PHOTOS, OR VIDEO WAS GIVEN TO DETECTIVES ON SCENE. FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE THE ATTACHED SUPPLEMENTS.

SUPPLEMENTAL NARRATIVE :

Name: Provstgaard J

Date: 10:25:31 02/08/07

CASE NAME - DEATH INVESTIGATION, RESIDENTIAL FIRE RELATED

DATE - FEBRUARY 6TH, 2007

DETECTIVE - DETECTIVE J. PROVSTGAARD

CASE NUMBER - 07UC01273

SYNOPSIS:

FIRE AND DEATH INVESTIGATION

PEOPLE INVOLVED:

REPORTING PATROL DEPUTY - DEPUTY J. PHILIPPI
ASSISTING PATROL SERGEANT - SERGEANT S. CANNON
ASSISTING PATROL SERGEANT - SERGEANT E. MCDOWELL
ASSISTING PATROL SERGEANT - SERGEANT M. BINKS
ASSISTING PATROL SERGEANT - SERGEANT J. RANDALL
ASSISTING PATROL SERGEANT - SERGEANT J. JONES
ASSISTING PATROL DEPUTY - DEPUTY J. LESSLEY
ASSISTING PATROL DEPUTY - DEPUTY - J. BINGHAM
ASSISTING PATROL DEPUTY - DEPUTY N. HARRIS
ASSISTING PATROL DEPUTY - DEPUTY T. COLLET
ASSISTING PATROL DEPUTY - DEPUTY J. KANTOR
ASSISTING PATROL DEPUTY - DEPUTY T. APLANAP
ASSISTING PATROL DEPUTY - DEPUTY D. NEZ
ASSISTING PATROL DEPUTY - DEPUTY M. STOUT
ASSISTING PATROL DEPUTY - DEPUTY J. CHAPPELL
ASSIGNED DETECTIVE - DETECTIVE J. SCOTT
ASSISTING DETECTIVE SERGEANT - SERGEANT M. BROWER
ASSISTING DETECTIVE - DETECTIVE J. PROVSTGAARD
ASSISTING DETECTIVE - DETECTIVE S. BELL
ASSISTING DETECTIVE - DETECTIVE D. WILLES
ASSISTING DETECTIVE - DETECTIVE M. HIGLEY
EVIDENCE TECHNICIAN - D. SQUIRE
ASSISTING EMERGENCY SERVICES LIEUTENANT - LIEUTENANT D. BENNETT
ASSISTING PATROL LIEUTENANT - LIEUTENANT - LIEUTENANT J. MONSON
MEDICAL EXAMINER - B. NICHOLS
RESPONDING FIRE DEPARTMENTS - SARATOGA SPRINGS FIRE DEPARTMENT, EAGLE MOUNTAIN
FIRE DEPARTMENT, LEHI FIRE DEPARTMENT, AMERICAN FORK FIRE DEPARTMENT, LONE
PEAK FIRE DEPARTMENT
OTHER - SARATOGA SPRINGS PUBLIC WORKS, QUESTSTAR GAS COMPANY
VICTIM - APRIL ROPER
VICTIM - LARRY RADFORD
WITNESS - RICHARD BRIAN SOUTHWICK

OTHER - GREG ROPER

INITIAL CONTACT:

DETECTIVE SCOTT AND I WERE AT THE SARATOGA SPRINGS SMITH'S GROCERY STORE WHEN DISPATCH WAS BROADCASTING INFORMATION REGARDING AN EXPLOSION IN SARATOGA SPRINGS. DEPUTY PHILIPPI AND SERGEANT CANNON WERE RESPONDING AND REQUESTING ADDITIONAL UNITS FOR ASSISTANCE. DETECTIVE SCOTT AND I RESPONDED TO ASSIST.

PEDESTRIAN AND TRAFFIC CONTROL:

I INITIALLY STARTED TO PROVIDE TRAFFIC AND PEDESTRIAN CONTROL AT THE INTERSECTION OF PRAIRIE DOG ROAD AND BUFFALO DRIVE. SEVERAL PEOPLE AND VEHICLES WERE COMING TO VIEW WHAT APPEARED TO BE A HOUSE FIRE. THERE WAS LITTLE ROOM TO GET RESPONDING EMERGENCY PERSONNEL TO THE LOCATION. I MOTIONED AND YELLED FOR TRAFFIC TO MOVE SO THAT RESPONDING FIRE UNITS COULD ACCESS PRAIRIE DOG ROAD TO GET TO THE HOUSE. SERGEANT CANNON ADVISED OVER THE RADIO THAT THE MAIN GAS LINE HAD NOT BEEN SHUT DOWN. I HEADED TOWARDS THE HOUSE THAT I COULD SEE WAS ENGULFED IN FLAMES TO HELP EVACUATE BYSTANDERS FROM THE AREA FOR THEIR SAFETY. DEPUTY NEZ AND DEPUTY LESSLEY ARRIVED ON SCENE TO ASSIST.

CONTACT WITH SERGEANT BROWER AND DETECTIVE SCOTT:

I WAS CONTACTED VIA CELLULAR PHONE BY SERGEANT BROWER TO ASSIST WITH THE INVESTIGATION. I WAS ADVISED THAT TWO INDIVIDUALS WERE POSSIBLY INSIDE THE HOUSE WHEN THE EXPLOSION OCCURRED. I RESPONDED TO THE INTERSECTION NEAR THE HOUSE TO MEET WITH DETECTIVE SCOTT. DETECTIVE SCOTT ASKED ME TO LOCATE ANY WITNESSES AND DIRECT THEM TO HIM TO BE INTERVIEWED. I WAS ALSO ASSIGNED TO DOCUMENT THE SCENE WITH PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEO.

DEBRIS:

I NOTICED DEBRIS FROM WHAT APPEARED TO BE FROM THE HOUSE SEVERAL HOUSES DOWN FROM THE HOUSE ADDRESS OF 682 NORTH BADGER LANE. I OBSERVED LARGE PIECES OF WOOD IN THE YARD OF THE HOUSE EAST OF THE ENGULFED HOUSE. THERE WAS ALSO A COUCH / CHAIR ON THE ROOF OF THIS HOUSE. A QUESTSTAR TRUCK WITH A TRAILER WAS PARKED BETWEEN THIS RESIDENCE AND THE HOUSE THAT WAS ON FIRE.

CONTACT WITH QUESTSTAR EMPLOYEE:

I LOCATED AN INDIVIDUAL IN THE QUESTSTAR TRUCK WITH TRAILER ATTACHED. I IDENTIFIED MYSELF AND ASKED IF HE WAS HERE AT THE TIME OF THE EXPLOSION. HE TOLD ME THAT HE WAS AND SHOWED ME WHERE HE HAD BEEN STANDING WHEN THE EXPLOSION OCCURRED. HE WAS ON THE DRIVEWAY OF THE HOUSE JUST EAST OF THE HOUSE THAT WAS INVOLVED IN THE EXPLOSION. I WAS TOLD BY HIM THAT THEY WERE FIXING A GAS PIPE LINE. I ASKED HIM FOR HIS IDENTIFICATION AND DIRECTED TO DETECTIVE SCOTT'S

LOCATION. I TOLD DETECTIVE SCOTT THAT HE WAS THERE DURING THE EXPLOSION AND PROVIDED HIM WITH HIS IDENTIFICATION. DETECTIVE SCOTT ASKED ME TO LOCATE FURTHER WITNESS STATEMENTS TO HAVE OTHER WITNESSES FILL OUT.

HOUSE FIRE:

DETECTIVE BELL ARRIVED ON SCENE WITH SERGEANT BROWER. SERGEANT BROWER ASSIGNED US TO VIDEO AND PHOTOGRAPH THE SCENE AND TO THE RECOVERY OPERATION FOR THE TWO VICTIMS. SEVERAL FIRE CREWS WERE WORKING ON EXTINGUISHING THE FLAMES. THE HOUSE APPEARED TO BE SCATTERED ALL OVER THE NEIGHBORHOOD. A PORTION OF THE GARAGE WHICH FACED WEST WAS STILL STANDING. THERE WAS A WHITE CAR IN THE GARAGE AND A WHITE TRUCK PARKED ON THE DRIVEWAY. DETECTIVE BELL AND I WORKED AROUND FIRE CREWS TO PHOTOGRAPH AND VIDEO TAPE THE DAMAGE OF THE HOUSE AND NEIGHBORHOOD. FIRE CREWS CONTINUED TO BATTLE THE HOUSE FIRE BEFORE THE RECOVERY OF THE VICTIMS BODIES COULD BEGIN.

EVIDENCE RECOVERED:

DEPUTY PHILIPPI LOCATED THE OUTSIDE GAS METER. THE METER APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN MELTED FROM THE HEAT OF THE FIRE. IT DID STILL APPEAR TO BE ATTACHED PARTIALLY TO THE GROUND CONNECTION. THE METER WAS PHOTOGRAPHED AND GIVEN TO UTAH COUNTY EVIDENCE TECHNICIAN, D. SQUIRE.

FIRE PERSONNEL ALSO RECOVERED A TOOL BOX AND AN ELECTRONIC METER TYPE DEVICE NEAR THE LOCATION OF WHERE THE VICTIMS BODIES WERE DISCOVERED. THESE ITEMS WERE PHOTOGRAPHED AND COLLECTED FOR EVIDENTIARY PURPOSES.

VICTIMS BODIES RECOVERED:

FIRE PERSONNEL CONTINUED TO SECURE AND SEARCH THROUGH THE DEBRIS TO LOCATE THE VICTIMS BODIES. FIRE CREWS LIFTED A SECTION OF FLOORING WITH A HEAVY EQUIPMENT BACKHOE. DETECTIVE BELL AND I WERE NOTIFIED. THE BACKHOE LIFTED UP THE FLOORING A LITTLE FURTHER FOR ACCESS TO THE BODY AND THE OTHER VICTIMS BODY WAS DISCOVERED. FIRE CREWS MOVED DEBRIS FROM AROUND THE BODY SO THAT PHOTOGRAPHS COULD BE TAKEN.

POSITION OF VICTIMS BODIES:

REDACTED
CONFIDENTIAL- SUBJECT
TO PROTECTIVE ORDER

THE FIRST VICTIM'S BODY WAS LOCATED

[REDACTED]

THIS APPEARED TO BE THE MALE VICTIM, LARRY RADFORD.

THE SECOND VICTIM'S BODY WAS LOCATED

[REDACTED]

IT APPEARED TO BE THE BODY OF THE

REDACTED
CONFIDENTIAL- SUBJECT
TO PROTECTIVE ORDER

REDACTED
CONFIDENTIAL- SUBJECT
TO PROTECTIVE ORDER

REDACTED
CONFIDENTIAL- SUBJECT
TO PROTECTIVE ORDER

FEMALE VICTIM, APRIL ROPER. THE BODIES WERE NOT MOVED UNTIL THE MEDICAL EXAMINER ARRIVED.

MEDICAL EXAMINER CALLED TO SCENE:

B. NICHOLS WITH THE OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER WAS NOTIFIED TO RESPOND TO THE SCENE. NICHOLS WAS BRIEFED ON THE CASE AND STARTED HIS INVESTIGATION FOR THE MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE. THE BODIES WERE MOVED AT THIS POINT SO ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS, VIDEO, AND IDENTIFICATION COULD BE MADE. THE BODIES WERE RELEASED TO THE OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER AT THIS TIME.

FOLLOW UP PHOTOGRAPHS:

I RETURNED TO THE SCENE THE FOLLOWING MORNING ON FEBRUARY 7TH, 2007. DETECTIVE SCOTT ASKED FOR ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE SCENE. THERE WAS ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE WHERE DAMAGE HAD OCCURRED. THERE WAS ALSO PHOTOGRAPHS OF ELECTRICAL AND NATURAL GAS LINES THAT WENT INTO THE FOUNDATION OF THE HOME INVOLVED AND THE NEIGHBOR'S RESIDENCE.

CONCLUSION:

PHOTO DISCS AND VIDEO TAPES WERE TURNED OVER TO DETECTIVE SCOTT FOR CONCLUSION OF THE INVESTIGATION. NO FURTHER ACTION TAKEN BY THIS DETECTIVE AT THIS TIME.

SUPPLEMENTAL NARRATIVE :

Name: Scott J

Date: 11:21:31 02/08/07

Detective Jody Scott

Utah County Sheriff's Office

Investigations Division

Incident #07UC01273

Date Report Submitted: 4-03-07

INCIDENT TYPE:

House Explosion and Fire Resulting In Two Deaths

DATE & TIME OF INCIDENT:

Call Received By Utah County Dispatch:
2-6-07 at Approximately 1611 hours

PLACE OF INCIDENT:

682 N Badger Lane - Saratoga Springs

PEOPLE INVOLVED:

Reporting Party:

Anne White

Victims:

April Lianne Roper - Deceased

Larry Darnell Radford - Deceased

Witnesses:

Greg G. Roper - Husband to April

Kristina Kay Ewert - Neighbor

Other People/Companies Involved:

S & E Cable Employees:

Sandy T. Parra - Owner

Manuel De Jesus Molina Robles - Worker Who Broke Gas Line

Questar Employees Working On Scene During Explosion:

Richard Brian Southwick - Supervisor

Jack E. Bryant

Ryan Whittekiend

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR VARIOUS ENTITIES/PERSONS:

Utah County Civil Attorney:
Cort Griffin - 851-8001

Saratoga Springs Fire Marshall:
Mike Penovich - 830-2462

State Fire Marshall:
Troy Mills - 556-4154 cell

Utah County Fire Marshall:
Dennis Barker - 404-0659

Medical Examiner(On Scene):
Brian Nichols - 852-7267, 890-0241 pager

Medical Examiner(Autopsy):
Doctor Frieke - 584-8410

OSHA:
Jim Johnston - 580-3152 cell, 530-6604 work

Questar:
Corporate Attorney:
Abigail E. Margrane - 324-5231 work, 231-6370 cell

Home Builder:
Darin Garrett - 420-1340

Department of Commerce(Division of Public Utilities) - Pipe Line Safety Program
Manager:
Al Zadeh - 541-8736

Attorney's Representing Roper Family:
Jim Brady & Dee Bradford - 374-6272 work, 636-7516 (Jim's Cell)
Mike Schinkel - Iowa 515-244-6821 work, 816-522-8471 cell

Burn Pattern Analysis:
Robert Jacobsen (Jake) - 201-8416 cell, 746-1142 wk *Taking Evidence

DOCUMENTS ATTACHED:
Photos of Incident
Video of Incident
Witness Statements
Audio CD of Interviews

SYNOPSIS:

I was assigned to investigate a report of an explosion of a home in Saratoga Springs, which resulted in the death of two individuals. Upon completion of my investigation, I believe this incident to have been an accident, therefore there will be no criminal charges pursued at this time. Due to possible civil litigation involving this case, our office will provide needed information obtained during our investigation to entities requesting information through the proper means of requests. This case will be closed as a criminal investigation, at this time.

INITIAL REPORT:

On 2-6-07 at approximately 1611 hours, our county dispatch received a call from Anne White stating a home in Saratoga Springs had exploded, and was on fire. I arrived on scene at approximately 1618 hours, and began conducting interviews with various individuals, while other fire and law enforcement units dealt primarily with the fire, evacuation procedures, and safety concerns to surrounding civilians. The scene of the explosion and fire was located at 682 N Badger Lane in Saratoga Springs, which belongs to Greg and April Roper. I was told that April Roper and Questar gas employee Larry Radford were believed to be inside the home during the explosion, and both were believed to be deceased.

ACTIONS TAKEN:

Initial Detective Assignments:

During this incident I was asked by Saratoga Springs Fire Chief Mike Penovich, to assist him during this event by conducting interviews, and gathering evidence relating to his investigation of this home explosion and fire.

Detectives Sean Bell and Jory Provstgaard assisted me by taking digital video & photos of the incident, as well as gathering evidence on scene, and assisting in the recovery of both bodies of the deceased victims, see their attached report for details.

Detective Doug Willes assisted me by taking aerial photos of the incident, see the attached photos.

Detective Sgt. Mike Brower assisted me by making family notifications, passing on pertinent information to various individuals with a need to know, as well as other various law enforcement procedures relating to this incident, see

his attached report for details.

Contact With Family Members:

During this incident on 2-6-07, I spoke briefly with Greg Roper, who is the husband of the deceased, April Roper. Greg told me that he was driving a tractor towards his home, when he saw his home explode and catch fire. Greg said initially he was unsure if anyone had been inside the home, but that his neighbor, Kristina Ewert, would know more than he. Greg told me his address is 682 N Badger Ln. in Saratoga Springs. I learned that Greg and April have lived at this address with their 18 month old daughter Olivia, for a couple of weeks.

Contact With Witnesses:

Interview with Kristina Ewert:

On 2-6-07, I spoke with Kristina Ewert, who told me she was a neighbor and friend to April and Greg Roper. Mrs. Ewert said she had been made aware of a gas line break to a home located at 953 W Prairie Dog Way in Saratoga Springs, when April Roper told her by phone that Questar gas employees had asked the Roper family to evacuate their home immediately because a gas line had been cut by a phone company. Mrs. Ewert told me she resides at 923 W Prairie Dog Way in Saratoga Springs.

Mrs. Ewert told me that April and she began taking a walk with their small children, in the direction of April's home when April told her she was going to ask the employees of Questar gas, when it would be safe to enter April's home. Mrs. Ewert said she observed 4 Questar employees working in the area, including an African-American, known to be Larry Radford, an older guy believed to be Richard Southwick, and two other workers, learned to be Ryan Whittekiend, and Jack Bryant.

Mrs. Ewert told me that she overheard the older guy, Richard Southwick, tell April it was safe to go back inside her home, and that April indicated to her, that she was going to let Larry inside April's home with the intentions of restarting the pilot lights to various appliances that used natural gas. Mrs. Ewert said she, April, and the children waited near the Ropers' garage door while Larry changed his boots to clean ones. Mrs. Ewert said she observed April open the side garage door, and then an interior door in the garage, which leads inside the home, for Larry. Mrs. Ewert said at that point she no longer could see where April and Larry were walking to.

Mrs. Ewert said approximately 2 or 3 minutes later while she and the kids were still standing near the garage, she heard and observed the Ropers home explode and catch fire. Mrs. Ewert told me she tried to protect her son from falling debris, and noticed the stroller Olivia Roper had been in had been turned upside down, and Olivia was face down on the concrete driveway, bleeding

from the mouth. Mrs. Ewert said another person helped her and the children get to a safer area. Mrs. Ewert pointed out the Questar employees she had seen working in the area, to me, and I went to speak with them.

Interview with Brian Southwick:

On 2-6-07, I spoke with Richard Southwick several times throughout this investigation. Mr. Southwick told me he is a Questar gas employee, and the supervisor in charge of the crew dispatched to fix a broken natural gas line in Saratoga Springs on this day. Mr. Southwick told me the following Questar employees were working with him during the incident in Saratoga Springs: Larry Radford, Ryan Whittekiend, and Jack Bryant.

Mr. Southwick told me he received a call at approximately 1310 hours, to fix a gas line that had been broken at the residence of 973 W Prairie Dog Way in Saratoga Springs. Mr. Southwick said he traveled from Pleasant Grove, where his crew had been when the call came in, through bad traffic in order to get to the residence, but couldn't remember what time he had arrived. Mr. Southwick said he pressed an on-site button when he arrived at the Saratoga address, which should indicate electronically through the Questar dispatch center, when he arrived on scene of the call.

Mr. Southwick said he noticed the ground was badly frozen as they were digging with a mini-excavator, and they were getting ready to use a jack hammer, when they broke through the frost to get to the gas main to squeeze the line off. Mr. Southwick said he began digging a second squeeze hole, at which time he asked Larry Radford to monitor the gas levels underground with a device called a Ranger. Mr. Southwick said Larry informed him the device showed uncontrolled gas underground, at which time they shut the gas off to house #'s 682 and 953. Mr. Southwick said at this time they evacuated the people living in #682, and watched the woman, known as April Roper go with her child down the street. Mr. Southwick told me nobody was currently inside the residence of lot 953. Mr. Southwick was unable to tell me what the gas readings in the ground were with the Ranger device at the time they felt a need to evacuate the Roper home, as they did not document their readings as they went, nor could he or anyone on his crew remember what the readings had been.

Mr. Southwick told me he and his crew made the repairs to the 2" gas main, and waited the appropriate amount of time, which Mr. Southwick said was 30 minutes, for the fusions to cool. Mr. Southwick said he had Larry Radford bar test the ground with a Ranger device after the repair to make sure the gas, previously registering in the ground prior to the repair, had come out of the ground. Mr. Southwick told me Larry claimed the ground was clear after Mr. Southwick watched Larry bar test a few holes.

I asked Mr. Southwick what the gas readings showed on the Ranger device when Larry re-checked the ground. Mr. Southwick told me he didn't know, as

their crew did not take down notes as they went. Mr. Southwick was unable to tell me exactly where the gas readings were taken from in the ground, as this information was not documented either. I asked Mr. Southwick if he or his crew tested the ground for gas around an electrical line which traveled near the break in the gas line, and into the foundation area of the Roper home, but Questar's corporate lawyer, Abigail Margrane told him not to answer that question. Mr. Southwick, and the other crew members working with him during this incident, were also unable to tell me whether or not the ground area near the cold air return leading to the Roper's basement and furnace room had been tested for gas.

Mr. Southwick told me that after the repair to the 2" main gas line, and the re-test check for gas in the ground near lot's 682 and 953, April Roper approached him and asked if she could go back inside her home. Mr. Southwick said he told April that Larry would clear her house, and after watching April open the garage door for Larry, Mr. Southwick, Mr. Whittekiend, and Mr. Bryant went back to the repair site to prepare to turn the gas back onto the main gas line.

Mr. Southwick indicated they were at the repair site no more than 2 minutes when the house exploded. Mr. Southwick said he ran to search for Larry, but couldn't get near the house due to the heat from the fire. Mr. Southwick said he ran to the west side of the house where he heard a baby crying, didn't see April, and assumed she must have followed Larry into the house.

Mr. Southwick told me that he believes a house the size of the Ropers could sufficiently be checked for gas with a handheld gas detector device called a Tiff 8800, in 2 or 3 minutes. Mr. Southwick told me he believes that type of device is what Larry was going to use to clear the Roper home. Mr. Southwick explained that "clearing" a home, normally means checking it for gas by using the Tiff 8800, walking through every room on each floor of the home, to see if the device registers for gas inside the home. Mr. Southwick indicated if there is any reading for gas, they do not allow anyone into the residence, and that nobody but his workers should have been inside the home during the clearing of the residence.

Mr. Southwick told me that it was his understanding that he and his crew had been dispatched to the Saratoga site initially because an employee of S & E Cable reported having broken a gas line. Mr. Southwick showed me a copy of an invoice showing the dispatch, which showed a phone number and contact information for Sandy who represents S & E Cable. I later learned that Sandy Parra is the owner of S & E Cable and that her employee Manuel De Jesus Molina Robles is the worker that broke the main gas line, while working in the area.

Mr. Southwick cooperated by filling out a voluntary statement regarding this incident, see attached.

Information Obtained At Scene of Incident:

Later during this investigation while speaking to a host of Questar employee supervisors and their attorneys, one of them spoke up and explained to me some of their standard practices. It is my understanding from this conversation that when a gas line breaks and gas readings of any amount within 20 feet of a foundation are detected in the ground, any homes in potential harms way, and the surrounding area is evacuated. It's also my understanding that after the repair of the gas leak, if the readings of gas levels are 2% or less and are more than 20 feet away from the foundation, the house is deemed safe to enter.

On 2-6-07 at approximately 2007 hours, while still at the site of the home explosion in Saratoga Springs, I observed two Questar employees, believed to be Ryan Whittekiend and Jack Bryant using a Ranger gas detector device to probe the ground for gas. Utah County Fire Marshall Dennis Barker and I approached the two workers, who then showed us that their current gas readings by the Ranger device they were using showed gas levels near the foundation of lot 953, well within 20 feet, and the ground near the main line that was initially broken, to read 30%. Fire Marshall Barker and I saw that the ground near the Roper home in the few areas that these same workers checked, showed 1% gas in the ground at the time. These readings were taken approximately 4 hours after the Ropers' home exploded, and were not taken in the electrical line, nor the area of the cold air return near the foundation of the Ropers' home.

Fire Marshall Dennis Barker explained to me that it is possible that the ground near the Ropers' home may have had higher gas readings in it at the time of the explosion, and that the explosion and fire at the Roper residence may have burnt up the majority of the gas initially in the ground in the surrounding area, which would explain the current lower reading of 1%, compared to the 30% reading just several feet away.

Dennis Barker also showed me literature explaining how the odor put in natural gas can dissipate when it travels through certain types of terrain and conditions, which appears to be consistent with the facts surrounding this case. This may explain why gas may not have been detected through smell by those entering the Roper residence. See the attached literature explaining this subject.

On 2-7-07 Questar attorney Abigail Margrane provided me with details showing that, according to Questar records, Mr. Southwick and his crew were dispatched to Saratoga Springs, near the Roper residence on 2-6-07 at approximately 1300 hours, arrived at approximately 1411 hours, and shortly thereafter, shut off the gas meters and evacuated two homes, including the Ropers'. I was told that the gas line was secured at approximately 1440 hours, and the repair was complete at approximately 1545 hours. I was told that at

approximately 1545 hours is when the 30 minute timeframe needed to cool the fusion process began, and that the Ropers' home explosion happened just prior to that time frame ending, and to the Questar employees turning the gas back on to the main line and meters.

Interview with Ryan Whittekiend:

On 2-6-07 I spoke with Ryan Whittekiend who is a Questar gas employee, and had been dispatched to fix a gas leak in the area of the Roper residence in Saratoga Springs.

Mr. Whittekiend told me that he and his crew, who were being supervised by Richard Southwick, were dispatched to 773 W Prairie Dog Way in Saratoga Springs, at approximately 1400 hours, and arrived on scene about 20 minutes later. Mr. Whittekiend said they found a "Hog Bore," in the main gas line, which had caused the damage to the line. Mr. Whittekiend explained the Questar crew dug two remote squeeze holes and stopped the gas flow to the damaged portion of pipe. Mr. Whittekiend said about the time they were to begin removing the squeeze bars from the pipe and rebury the pipe, they probed the ground for gas and found under 1% at the house. Mr. Whittekiend didn't specify which house this referred to, but then said Larry Radford decided to check the house for gas, apparently the Roper house, and if it was safe, he was going to let the homeowner back inside.

Mr. Whittekiend said he did not see Larry enter the home, and was just about to undo the squeeze bars to the main gas line when he heard an explosion.

Interview with Jake Bryant:

On 2-6-07 I spoke with Jake Bryant who is a Questar gas employee, and had been dispatched to fix a gas leak in the area of the Roper residence in Saratoga Springs.

Mr. Bryant told me when they arrived in Saratoga Springs he saw a missile had bored into a 2" main gas line, and that gas registered in the ground, so they evacuated two homes, including the Ropers'. Mr. Bryant said they repaired the damaged line, and were waiting for fittings to cool while they rechecked the ground on both sides of the road for gas. Mr. Bryant said his foreman, Richard Southwick, decided it was okay for Larry Radford to go inside the Roper home to make sure the house was clear of gas, and to re-light appliances if there was no gas present.

Mr. Bryant said he was aware Larry had some clean shoes, and was changing into them, so he could go into the home with the homeowner. Mr. Bryant said he did not see the two go into the home, but 2 or 3 minutes after Larry changed his shoes, he heard a loud explosion and ducked behind Ryan Whittekiend's truck, which was parked across the road from the house. Mr. Bryant

said his crew then excavated the main gas line on the northwest corner and shut off the main gas line serving gas to the home.

Interview with Sandy Parra and Manuel De Jesus Molina Robles:

On 2-6-07, Sandy Parra and Manuel De Jesus Molina Robles came out to the scene of the Saratoga home explosion and met with me concerning this incident. Ms. Parra told me she is the owner of S & E Cable who was hired to install buried phone cable at the residence of 953 W Prairie Dog Way in Saratoga Springs. Ms. Parra said she was hired to do the job by AC & C Construction and/or Fugal & Sons. Ms. Parra said her employee, Manuel Robles, was the worker who she asked to do the work.

Ms. Parra assisted me, as well as Deputy Melissa Stout, by interpreting for Mr. Robles who speaks very little English. Mr. Robles explained that he arrived on the Saratoga Springs job site at approximately 1100 hours and hit the gas line at approximately 1230 to 1240 hours on this same day. Mr. Robles indicated he called Ms. Parra about 5 minutes after he hit the gas line with a missile, causing it to break. Ms. Parra told me she had received 6 phone messages from Mr. Robles explaining that he had hit a gas line at 973 W Prairie Dog Way in Saratoga Springs. Ms. Parra showed me on her cell phone, that she received the first call from Mr. Robles at 1230 hours stating he had hit the gas line, and stated she checked her messages at approximately 1250 hours, which is when she first learned of the accident.

Ms. Parra told me she contacted Questar at approximately 1300 hours and informed them of the broken gas line. Ms. Parra showed me on her cell phone a call showing 1300 hours to the phone # of 541-2824, which she said is to her contact at Questar. Ms. Parra said Mr. Robles called her again from the phone # of 602-4890 at approximately 1407 hours telling her the gas company was taking too long to respond to the broken line. Ms. Parra showed me this information on her cell phone which indicated what she had told me. Ms. Parra said Mr. Robles informed her at this time he could see the Questar employees approaching the scene of the accident.

Ms. Parra said she received a phone call at approximately 1505 hours, from one of the Questar employees asking for the blue stake number and information. Ms. Parra said Mr. Robles called her at 1547 hours saying he came home after they let him get his tools, including the missile back, because he had a headache from the smell of gas.

Mr. Robles told me he stayed on the job site until approximately 1547 hours which is about 10 minutes after the approximate time he retained his tools and the missile which caused the damage to the gas pipe. Mr. Robles said he saw a large amount of gas bubbling up from the ground from the area he had caused the break, while he was there watching the Questar workers working on the line. Ms. Parra and Mr. Robles both filled out written voluntary

statements, see attached.

EVIDENCE:

Evidence Identified:

During this investigation, fire personnel from the Saratoga Springs Fire Department gave us the main gas meter to the home, a handheld tool box and a hand held Tiff 8800 gas detector device they recovered while searching for the bodies of April Roper and Larry Radford. It's believed the tool box and the Tiff 8800 were the equipment used by Larry Radford while working in the area of this incident. Fire Chief Mike Penovich requested that our department book these items into our evidence room for safe keeping, until it is determined where he would like them to go for possible testing and evidence recovery. These three items were booked into evidence by our evidence supervisor Doug Squire. The location where these items were initially recovered from, will be documented by the Saratoga Springs fire personnel.

While speaking with Abigail Margrane, she told me that Questar would leave their 3 vehicles on scene throughout the night and into the next morning, so anyone wanting to search the vehicles for potential evidence would be welcome to do so. Detective Sean Bell documented by photos a Ranger device, along with an empty Tiff 8800 case observed in the vehicle said to be driven by Larry Radford.

Consultation with Mike Penovich:

On 2-6-07 at approximately 2330 hours, Sgt. Mike Brower, Lt. Jerry Monson, Utah County Fire Marshall Dennis Barker, and I along with several others, spoke with Saratoga Springs Fire Marshall Mike Penovich regarding the need for him and his crew to secure and preserve the scene of this incident. Dennis Barker and I explained to Chief Penovich that the Sheriff's office, from a law enforcement perspective, did not see evidence of a crime committed during this incident, and therefore deemed it to be an accident. We explained to Chief Penovich this means our investigation into this incident was complete with the exception of us taking photos of the scene during the daylight hours on the following morning, and meeting with him the following day to see if there was anything else we could do to assist him.

Dennis Barker explained the need for Saratoga Springs authorities to preserve what they could of the scene of this accident, for various other entities that may pursue various investigations, which undoubtedly would take place regarding an accident of this nature. Chief Penovich said he understood this and agreed to have some of his own personnel maintain security throughout the night and into the next day, so that he would have time to notify the

insurance company, among others, who would be interested in conducting their own investigations. Chief Penovich told me that he would provide me a copy of his report at a later date, that would indicate a cause and origin of the fire, as he believed it to be from his investigative stand point. This report will be attached to our file when received.

On 2-7-06 Detective Jory Provstgaard responded to the scene of the explosion in Saratoga Springs, and informed me that the scene had been greatly disturbed from how it had been the previous night when our investigations team had left. I responded to the scene later that afternoon and saw that the remainder of the house had been knocked down, and it appeared that most of the surrounding debris from the explosion had been dumped into what remained of the Ropers' basement area of their home. I was not told who made this decision or who was responsible for it, which I'm sure will be looked into at a later date by various individuals representing various entities.

Release of Evidence:

On 2-16-07 Saratoga Springs Fire Chief Mike Penovich requested verbally and in writing our agency turn over the Ropers' gas meter to their home, in addition to the Tiff 8800 gas detector, and tool box, recovered from the scene of the explosion on 2-6-07, to Troy Mills with the Utah State Fire Marshall's Office.

Bodies of April Roper and Larry Radford Recovered:

During the investigation on 2-6-07, Saratoga Springs fire personnel recovered the bodies of April Roper and Larry Radford. Detectives Sean Bell, Jory Provstgaard and Deputy Jason Phillipi were called in to assist the fire department with the recovery of these bodies. See their reports for details as well as the photos and video attached to this file for further documentation of this event.

Medical Examiner Brian Nichols responded to the scene and took possession of Mrs. Roper and Mr. Radford's bodies. His case # for Mrs. Roper is 200700214, and 200700215 for Mr. Radford. Mr. Nichols' report will be attached to this report at a later date, along with the findings of the autopsy which will be conducted by Utah State Medical Examiner Doctor Frieke.

Medical Examiner's Report of Investigation:

I received a copy of Brian Nichols report outlining his investigation of the death of April Roper and Larry Radford. Mr. Nichols represents the Utah State Medical Examiner's Office. See Mr. Nichols's attached report for details of his investigation.

Medical Examiner's Report of Autopsy:

I received a copy of the Medical Examiner reports concerning the autopsies conducted by Doctor Frieke on 2-7-07. Doctor Frieke indicated she preformed an autopsy on the bodies of April Roper and Larry Radford. Doctor Frieke's report indicated her opinion and diagnoses of the deaths involving Mrs. Roper and Mr. Radford. See the attached copy of Doctor Frieke's reports for further details of the autopsies she conducted concerning this matter.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS:

I received a copy of Utah County Fire Marshall Dennis Barker's report regarding this incident. Mr. Barker's report reiterates much of what is outlined in this report. See Mr. Barker's attached report for further details of his findings regarding this case.

Saratoga Springs Fire Chief Mike Penovich said he will provide a copy of his report regarding the Roper's home explosion in Saratoga Springs at a later date. A copy of his report will be attached to this file once it is received, at which time it can be reviewed for the details of his findings regarding this matter.

I received a copy of Troy Mills's report regarding this incident. Mr. Mills is the Deputy State Fire Marshall for the state of Utah, who was asked to assist Chief Penovich during his investigation of the home explosion in Saratoga Springs. See Mr. Mills's attached report for details of his findings regarding this case.

CONCLUSION:

Upon conclusion of this investigation, I have found insufficient evidence of a crime having been committed, therefore charges will not be pursued against anyone. I believe this incident to have been an accident. This conclusion is based of witness statements, evidence collected at the scene, and the lack of evidence indicating a crime. This case will be closed at this time, but our agency will still be available for assistance on any additional follow up requested of us.

End of report.

SUPPLEMENTAL NARRATIVE :

Name: Blanchard M

Date: 16:13:26 04/02/07

Victim Assistance Supplemental: Maria Blanchard

Synopsis:

On Tuesday, February 6th, 2007, I was requested to assist at a residence in Saratoga Springs that had exploded and two individuals were deceased as a result of the explosion. I responded to the scene, coordinated with Sgt. Michael Brower, coordinated with American Red Cross to provide food, drinks, and counseling to family members and emergency responders, and spoke to several family members of the victims and co-workers of one of the victims. Since the incident, I have provided follow-up information to family members and other responders at the scene.

Narrative:

Sgt. Michael Brower contacted me at approximately 4:15 p.m. on Tuesday, February 6th, 2007. He indicated that a home in Saratoga Springs had exploded and was requesting victim assistance as two individuals were in the home at the time of the explosion. He indicated there were several people on scene that needed assistance. I began my response from Provo to Saratoga Springs. On my way there, I spoke to Det. Jory Provstgaard and Sgt. Mark Binks who provided me information about the scene. I called and requested American Red Cross respond.

I arrived on scene and first met with Greg Roper and several family members. Greg's wife, April, was in the home at the time of the explosion and believed to be deceased at the time of my arrival. Larry Radford, an employee with Questar Gas, was also believed to be in the home and deceased. I also met with Ryan Whittekiend and Jack Bryant who were employed by Questar and had been outside of the home when the explosion occurred. During the events of the search, I checked in several times with several family members of both victims and co-workers of Larry Radford. I coordinated with American Red Cross' Crisis Counselors and Emergency Response Vehicle Personnel to ensure needs of victims and first responders were being met. Jackie Nunez, Victim Advocate, also responded later in the evening to assist and for training purposes.

Since the incident on the 6th of February, Jackie Nunez responded to the residence the next day to follow up with the Roper family. I have spoken to family members of both April Roper and Larry Radford and provided information for GRAMA requests, how to obtain a copy of the medical examiner's report, and provided grief counseling information.

Conclusion:

I responded to the scene of the house explosion at 953 W. Prairie Dog Way in Saratoga Springs and provided crisis counseling to those involved and at the

scene and coordinated with the American Red Cross for crisis services. I have also provided follow-up information to the family members of both Larry Radford and April Roper.

SUPPLEMENTAL NARRATIVE :

Name: Brower M

Date: 08:34:26 04/04/07

SYNOPSIS:

On February 6, 2007, I was advised of an explosion that occurred in the city of Saratoga Springs. I contacted dispatch and obtained further information. Dispatch said it was reported that a residence exploded and two individuals may be inside the residence. Detective Scott and Detective Provstgaard were in the area and responded to the scene. I responded to the scene and met with Detective Scott, he was assigned to be the case detective.

Once at the scene, I requested further assistance from Detective Bell. I also requested the victim advocates respond to the scene and provide assistance to family members and co-workers of the two individuals who were in the residence at the time of explosion. Evidence Technician, Doug Squire, also responded with the evidence trailer. Detective Willes was also asked to contact Lt. Bennett to fly over the scene for aerial photographs.

Fire Departments from the area put the fire out and began search efforts for the two missing individuals, April Roper and Larry Radford. April and Larry were discovered in close proximity in what would have been near the furnace area in the basement of the residence. The Medical Examiner was called and responded to conduct a death investigation for the Medical Examiner's Office. The bodies of April Roper and Larry Radford were transported to the Medical Examiner's Office.

Based on the information provided and scene observations, it was determined that no crime had occurred. Detective Scott completed an investigation into the death and circumstances surrounding the death of April Roper and Larry Radford.

INITIAL OBSERVATIONS / ACTIONS TAKEN:

Once I arrived at the scene, I witnessed fire personnel working on putting the fire out at the residence. The only portion of the residence I witnessed standing was a majority of the garage, the rest of the residence had exploded. Debris from the residence was witnessed throughout the neighborhood.

I initially met with Detective Scott and advised him he would be the case detective. I asked him what assistance he needed and made resources available. Detective Scott quickly identified parties involved and conducted interviews, collected statements, and conducted follow up.

Family members and co-workers of April Roper and Larry Radford began to arrive at the scene. I identified April Roper's husband, Greg, and kept him

apprised of the search and recovery efforts. I also coordinated information with the Questar administrators that were on scene regarding the recovery of Larry Radford.

Photographs of the scene were taken when detectives arrived and continued to be collected throughout the recovery efforts. Video was also taken during the recovery.

Once the recovery was completed, the scene was secured by Saratoga Spring's Fire Department. No law enforcement presence was needed due to no criminal incident that would require preserving the scene.

CONCLUSION:

A residence in Saratoga Springs exploded due to natural gas. A home owner, April Roper, and Questar employee, Larry Radford, were in the residence at the time of the explosion and perished. Their bodies were recovered and transported to the Medical Examiner's Office in Salt Lake City.

Detective Scott was assigned to the death investigation. Statements were obtained, photographs taken, and resources provided to the family members of the deceased. I contacted the Utah County Attorney's Office and spoke with Utah County Deputy Attorney, Sherry Reagan. Sherry was provided the information obtained regarding the residence explosion, she informed me that based on the information, it appears that no criminal activity occurred.

Detective Scott completed his report and supplemental narratives were attached to his case file.
