

United States Fire Administration



Technical Report Series

Sixteen-Fatality Fire in High-rise Residence for the Elderly Johnson City, Tennessee



Federal Emergency Management Agency



**United States Fire Administration
National Fire Data Center**

Sixteen-Fatality Fire in High-rise Residence for the Elderly Johnson City, Tennessee (December 24, 1989)

Investigated by: Daniel J. Carpenter, Jr.

**This is Report 039 of the Major Fires Investigation Project conducted
by TriData Corporation under contract EMW-88-C-2649 to the United
States Fire Administration, Federal Emergency Management Agency.**



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U.S. Fire Administration Fire Investigations Program

The U.S. Fire Administration develops reports on selected major fires throughout the country. The fires usually involve multiple deaths or a large loss of property. But the primary criterion for deciding to do a report is whether it will result in significant "lessons learned." In some cases these lessons bring to light new knowledge about fire -- the effect of building construction or contents, human behavior in fire, etc. In other cases, the lessons are not new but are serious enough to highlight once again, with yet another fire tragedy report.

The reports are sent to fire magazines and are distributed at national and regional fire meetings. The International Association of Fire Chiefs assists USFA in disseminating the findings throughout the fire service. On a continuing basis the reports are available on request from USFA.

This body of work provides detailed information on the nature of the fire problem for policymakers who must decide on allocations of resources between fire and other pressing problems, and within the fire service to improve codes and code enforcement, training, public fire education, building technology, and other related areas.

The Fire Administration, which has no regulatory authority, sends an experienced fire investigator into a community after a major incident only after having conferred with the local fire authorities to insure that USFA's assistance and presence would be supportive and in no way interfere with any review of the incident they are themselves conducting. The intent is not to arrive during the event or even immediately after, but rather after the dust settles, so that a complete and objective review of all the important aspects of the incident can be made. Local authorities review USFA's report while it is in draft. The USFA investigator or team is available to local authorities should they wish to request technical assistance for their own investigation.

This report and its recommendations were developed by USFA staff and by TriData Corporation, Arlington, Virginia, its staff and consultants, who are under contract to assist the Fire Administration in carrying out the Fire Reports Program.

The U.S. Fire Administration appreciates the cooperation and assistance received from Johnson City Fire Chief Douglas W. Buckles, Inspector Arson Investigator Steve Shell, and Chief Building Inspector Charles Joe Cannon as well as Tennessee Arson Investigators Johnny Robertson and Mike Donnelly.

**Sixteen-Fatality Fire in
High-Rise Residence for the Elderly
Johnson City, Tennessee**

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OVERVIEW

A Christmas Eve fire that caused the death of 14 residents and two visitors occurred at the John Sevier Center, a high-rise residence for the elderly, in Johnson City, Tennessee. It also injured about 50 other people including 15 firefighters.

One victim was found in the elevator lobby on the sixth floor, one in Room 107, and the rest, 14 victims, on higher level floors in living units. (See Appendix A for the name, age, and location discovered of all victims.)

The fire started in Apt. #102 shortly after 1700 hours and traveled out of the apartment and across the ceiling above the main hallway smoke detectors (which would have activated the 911 fire alarm system) across to the main lobby. Swirling smoke trapped many of the occupants on the upper floors of the 11-story building before any notification or alarm was heard by them. (See Appendix C for floor plan of apartment of origin.)

The alarm was received at 1711 by the dispatcher of the Johnson City Fire Department. The first units were on the scene within four minutes. Upon arrival, flames were observed on the first floor and additional calls were made for backup units to respond. More than five hours later, firefighters were still breaking windows and heavy smoke continued to hamper their rescue efforts. Johnson City firefighters, public safety officers, and hundreds of volunteer firefighters and civilians who had responded to the call assisted in the rescue and treatment of the injured. Almost every available emergency unit and crew from as far as 70 miles away answered the call. Helicopters from as far away as Virginia helped to move the injured from the fire scene to nearby hospitals.

Sub-freezing temperatures hampered rescue efforts and made some of the occupants resistant to leaving the building. The freezing conditions caused firefighters to have to force open exit doors.

The building had a history of "false alarms," which may have caused some of the occupants not to be too concerned even if the alarm was heard. Many of those who were able to make it out on their own in the early stages of the fire simply wandered off, or were treated and released by rescue workers. Others were assisted by their families and friends. Red Cross workers tried desperately to determine who and how many occupants were still left in the building.

BACKGROUND

The fire on December 24, 1989, was the second fatal fire to occur at the John Sevier Center within two months. A previous fire, which occurred on October 25th, 1989, caused the death of 76-year-old Joseph R. England. Fire officials attributed the cause of that fire to the accidental filling

of a kerosene can with gasoline by friends of the deceased which was later used to fill a kerosene heater. The occupant died three days later from the effects of smoke inhalation.

Even though this fire prompted the Johnson City Commission to issue directions for all buildings in the downtown area to be inspected within two years, the John Sevier Center had only been inspected by building officials for repairs necessitated by the fire, because of time constraints.

The Johnson City Fire Marshal's office had investigated the fire which occurred on October 25, 1989. A final inspection of Apt #513 was also conducted during the week of November 27. Another inspection of smoke towers and standpipes was also conducted because of reports that heavier than usual accumulations of smoke had traveled to the upper floors at the time of the fire. This heavy smoke accumulation was later attributed to a break in the pipe chase between floors, thereby allowing the smoke to travel freely to the upper floors of the building. Fire officials had attempted to correct the situation by working with building officials and engineers to convince the owner of the seriousness of this situation and bring the building into compliance.

Primary concerns with the building involved vertical penetrations, allowing smoke to travel upward between floors, the capacity and proper functioning of ventilation to remove and segregate smoke, and also the lack of sprinkler systems, even though the building did contain a standpipe system which met code requirements at the time it was renovated in the late 1970s.

At the time of the fire the John Sevier Center housed approximately 145 residents. Exactly how many were actually in the building when the fire occurred has not been determined. Several of the residents who were thought to be missing were later accounted for.

The fire was brought under control shortly after arrival, and fire damage was limited to the floors. Smoke continued to fill the building, requiring ventilation and rescue operations to continue for at least another five hours.

More than 200 paid and volunteer firefighters responded along with public safety officers, EMT's, and rescue workers from over 70 miles away to help combat the greatest tragedy Johnson City has ever experienced. Hundreds of others brought food and clothing for victims and rescue workers. Many acts of heroism were reported.

Fire and police personnel responded as planned and volunteer units provided the additional manpower and equipment so vitally needed at the scene and also to cover fire stations providing fire protection for the other areas of the city.

Sub-zero temperatures impaired the refilling of air bottles at the scene, because the pump on the portable unit was frozen. Other fire departments readily provided the many air cylinders needed as well as other equipment. According to Chief Buckles, each department seemed to know in advance where to position their equipment to the greatest advantage, and every member of that department went about his business in a professional manner, without adding confusion to such a major operation.

Media reports state that "Johnson City's fire and police departments responded with the sort of efficiency we have come to expect."

FIRE CAUSE AND DELAYED REPORT

While the cause of the fire had not been determined at the time of this report, it is generally believed there were several minutes between the time the fire originated and the time it was reported via the 911 alarm system.

It is apparent where the fire occurred, however, and based on this knowledge, investigators believe the fire ignited a loveseat in the immediate area of origin in Apt. #102 and then traveled in a vertical path until reaching a dropped ceiling supported by wooden joists. The fire quickly traveled across the ceiling, gaining in intensity as it consumed

combustible materials above the dropped ceiling. Only after the flames had progressed out of Apt. #102 and into an open lobby area was there sufficient smoke coming down from above the ceiling tiles to cause the automatic hall smoke alarms to activate.

THE STRUCTURE

According to building officials the building was approximately 65 years old. It was originally a high-rise hotel that had been converted to a "residential high-rise" in the late 1970s. At the time of conversion and renovation the building was periodically inspected to insure compliance with the building codes in effect at that time. The last time a major inspection was conducted by building officials was in 1980. Periodic fire inspections of public areas were conducted, with the last one (prior to the October 1989 fire) done in January 1989.

While city officials recognize that the building would not meet today's building and fire codes, they were quick to point out that the Center met all of the city codes in effect in 1980.

However, because of the October fire and because of concerns it raised about smoke travel and reports of floors and walls being breached, fire officials were in the process of updating the building to meet present day codes. Sprinkler systems were planned and provisions were being discussed west and south wing exits which leads directly to the street level. A center stairwell which was part of the old hotel was not marked as an exit, nor did it exit to the street. It apparently was to be used only by maintenance personnel and not the residents of the building.

with owners and engineers to see if anything could be done to limit occupancy only to ambulatory residents, particularly on the upper floors.

Fire escapes were provided in the west and south wings, along the middle, and at the mezzanine level. Smoke fans were also provided in the

SMOKE DETECTORS

Local smoke detectors were located in the bedrooms of each apartment and were monitored in the manager's office. Hallway smoke detectors were strategically located throughout the Center and activated a 911 system both in the building and at the Fire Department dispatcher's office.

Notification and early warning was delayed because of the rapid spread of smoke above the ceiling level and the fact that the bedroom door in Apt. #102 was closed during the fire. This fact prevented either alarm to function as it was designed to function and allowed the fire and smoke to enter above the detectors into the main lobby. Eventually detectors were activated, as were several others.

If heat detectors had been above the ceiling level, this might have provided earlier alarm and the additional time necessary to alert occupants.

ESCAPE ROUTES

Even though several of the occupants had already exited the building prior to the arrival of the Fire Department, many others hesitated to venture out into the sub-freezing temperatures. This caused a back-up of people trying to descend the stairways and may have caused some to believe the exit doors would not open even though they were equipped with panic bars. Reports indicate the firefighters may have had to force open these doors to gain access to the building and complete evacuations.

Some of the occupants may have even returned to their apartments to await rescuers rather than to attempt to find another exit.

HUMAN BEHAVIOR

While thick smoke filtered up through elevator shafts and pipe chases, residents using crutches, walkers, and canes attempted to exit through narrow stairways from as high up as the tenth floor. Others, too frightened, too old, or too confused simply stayed in their apartments and waited for the rescue teams to arrive. Not all were fortunate enough to be

found, however, before they succumbed to the deadly gases. Reportedly, one couple, found dead, had been sitting in their chairs reading the Bible.

Because of the frequency of seemingly minor fires or false smoke alarms, some residents may have simply ignored the alarm. Others, because of poor hearing, may not have even heard the alarm. This situation may have added to the already confused atmosphere that seemed to prevail, as many residents left their apartments to go into a hallway already filled with smoke.

Fire resistant doors had been installed at the entrance of each apartment. However, the automatic door closers were removed in many of them due to resident complaints the doors were too hard to open.

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Johnson City Fire Department provides protection to a fast growing community with a current population of 48,000 people in a 29 square mile area. The Department operates under the guidelines established by the Tennessee Commission of Firefighting, the TFIRS fire reporting system, the NFPA, and the Johnson City Civil Service Commission. The Insurance Service Office (ISO) has rated it as a class three department.

The 74-person department responds from five fire stations and is augmented by 100 public safety officers who have been cross-trained in fire fighting activities. From January through September 1989, there had been 712 fire calls had been answered, 669 fire prevention inspections, 27 plan reviews, 273 code enforcement investigations, and 42 fire investigations resulting in six arrests for arson.

Prior to the fire in Johnson Sevier Center, two fire prevention programs had been started. The Learn Not To Burn Curriculum was begun in the city's public schools and the "Juvenile Firesetters" program was developed through the Watauga Mental Health Center. Because of limited staff limitations and time constraints, other planned projects had not been implemented.

CODE COMPLIANCE/VIOLATIONS

Presumably the John Sevier Center met code requirements at the time it was renovated as a "high-rise residential" property in 1980. There is no question, however, that a properly installed sprinkler system could have prevented the rapid spread of fire on the first two floors. Nor is there any question that heavy smoke traveled rapidly up elevator shafts and pipe chases causing most of the victims to die of smoke inhalation, even though the fire was contained to the first two floors. Questions remain in the minds of some residents, family members, building owners, elected and appointed city officials as to whether or not the building was properly classified at the time it was renovated and if it were properly inspected by building and fire officials before, during, and after completion of the renovation process.

While many documents provided by code enforcement authorities to attest to the fact the building had been inspected during this phase of the changeover, questions still prevail as to how thorough these inspections were and on how closely the existing codes were compiled with. Were building permits obtained for all interior constructions since renovation?

Even as late as the previous fatal fire in October 1989 code violations were observed yet left uncorrected because time and the inspectors workload did not permit more thorough preliminary inspections or more frequent follow-up inspection.

The October fire had similar consequences due to rising smoke in the pipe chase areas. Even though a person died, the fire was not deemed to be "important enough" to have a sprinkler system installed at the time. The owners and managers of the building have said they planned to install a sprinkler system in the building in the Spring of 1990. Yet, large holes were left open between floors where smoke passed freely to the floors above.

COMMUNITY RESPONSE

While hundreds of people gathered food and clothing for victims and rescue workers to help fend off the below freezing temperatures, nearby hotels offered free rooms for the survivors and their families.

The American Red Cross had declared the Center a national emergency, thereby providing additional funds for the local chapter to help residents find housing and provide health care and other necessities. Of those residents not staying with friends or relatives, the Red Cross, Salvation Army, and city officials provided temporary shelter and assistance in relocating them to permanent quarters.

Several community and civic organizations have also pledged support as have businesses, corporations, and individuals. J. C. Penney Company opened its doors Christmas day to allow residents to purchase clothing and personal items through the Red Cross at substantial discounts. Those residents who had J. C. Penney credit cards were also allowed to defer payment on their individual accounts. Fast-food restaurants and motels also offered free meals for the residents.

A memorial service for the victims was held January 7 in Johnson City's Freedom Hall.

ANALYSIS OF SIGNIFICANT FACTORS

Many of the events and circumstances leading up to this fire could have been detected and/or prevented.

Structure -- This 65-year-old building was originally constructed before fire protection and building codes required sprinkler systems, which could have saved lives.

Smoke Detectors-- Only one smoke detector was installed in the bedroom of the apartment where the fire began. Since the fire started in the living room and the bedroom door was closed during the insipient stages of the fire, the fire had ample time to travel up through a dropped ceiling

and burn the wood bar joists above, thereby gaining sufficient headway into an open lobby area before being detected by the hallway smoke detector. A minimum of two smoke detectors in living quarters and heat detectors above dropped ceilings, and in attic and storage areas should be required.

Sign-out Roster and Visitor Log -- Since the fire occurred on Christmas Eve, many of the residents were away visiting friends and relatives. While this may have been a blessing in one respect, it increased the anxiety of search crews who were trying to determine the whereabouts of those still remaining in the building. A sign out roster and visitor log could have alleviated this problem.

LESSONS LEARNED

1. When a tragedy such as this occurs, the Catastrophic Theory of Reform may be used to overcome apathy, raise public awareness, and stimulate legislators and citizens to implement necessary fire safety reforms.

This Christmas Eve fire, that killed 16 people, has prompted legislators and fire officials to review existing structures throughout the State of Tennessee. While interest is high following a major fire it is an excellent time for not only Johnson City, Tennessee, but all areas of the country to review code classifications and compliance procedures to assure thorough and timely inspections of all residential properties, particularly those used as retirement centers and/or nursing homes.

Legislation requiring sprinkler systems in all public places where "large gatherings" occur is already being considered as a positive move for the State of Tennessee.

2. Smoke detector requirements should be reviewed for adequacy, particularly in older buildings where large numbers of people reside.

Fire stops, false ceilings, and code compliance to meet today's building standards must be reviewed.

3. Codes should be strictly enforced and when violated, severely punished.
4. Special efforts must be made to involve fire suppression personnel in fire prevention activities and pre-fire planning programs.

Greater emphasis and additional personnel assigned to the fire prevention and education functions of the fire service would help bring about citizen awareness.

5. Both building and fire code officials need to cooperate better to provide complete and thorough inspections when buildings undergo renovation.

They should not simply "sign off" when work is complete. Also, proper classification of existing buildings as well as new construction must be considered. Should the code requirements for a "high-rise residential" structure which houses predominately elderly residents (who are or are assumed to be ambulatory) be any less strict than a "retirement home"?

6. Building owners and property managers should be educated in the limitations of the elderly.

Research is needed on what may be expected of the elderly in the event of an emergency, and what they may physically be incapable of performing.

Appendices

- A. List of Victims' Names, Ages, and Location Discovered.
- B. Johnson City Fire Department Fire Incident Report, Master Personnel Watch Manifest, Equipment and Personnel Used to Control the Fire, and other Fire Departments, Rescue Squads, Businesses, and Community Organizations Involved in the Emergency Response and Recovery, list of First Responders.
- C. Floor Plans Showing Point of Origin.
- D. List of Photographs and Slides.

Appendix A

	Name of Victim	Age	Location Discovered
1.	Juanita Ward	76	Room 107 1st Floor
2.	Fred Kidd	66	Room 801 2nd Floor
3.	Ivan Atwood	68	Room 710
4.	Carmen Baughan	79	Room 1007 - Time 22:05
5.	Lori Carlisle	78	Room 510 - Time 20:09
6.	Brian Cozad	29	Room 1007 - Time 22:05
7.	Ethel Francis	76	Room 608
8.	William Carl Ogburne	51	Room 813 - Time 20:21
9.	Cleo Range	89	Room 704 - Time 20:17
10.	Doris Riening	72	Room 813 - Time 20:21
11.	Emma Shade	85	Room 108 - Time 20:06
12.	Blanche Shell	83	Room 604 - Time 22:55
13.	Ethel Shelton	80	Room 803
14.	Lora Shook	88	Room 403 - Time 20:20
15.	Carolyn Somitch	31	6th floor elevator lobby - Time 21:28
16.	Josephine Eager	82	Room 503



TENNESSEE FIRE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM

Basic Fire Incident Report

JOHNSON CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

1 Inmate
2 Prisoner

A	FD# 910252890980	INCIDENT NO 01010	EXP. MO. 10	DAY 24	YEAR 89	DAY OF WEEK 1 - Sunday 2 - Monday 3 - Tuesday 4 - Wednesday 5 - Thursday 6 - Friday 7 - Saturday	ALARM TYPE 1 - 1711 2 - 1712 3 - 1715	ARRIVAL TIME 013100	EXPIRES TIME 013100																																																																																																				
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19 <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify on Report)	28 <input type="checkbox"/> Elevator Problem	37 <input type="checkbox"/> Sewer	46 <input type="checkbox"/> Sewer	55 <input type="checkbox"/> Sewer	64 <input type="checkbox"/> Sewer	73 <input type="checkbox"/> Sewer	82 <input type="checkbox"/> Sewer	91 <input type="checkbox"/> Sewer	100 <input type="checkbox"/> Sewer	109 <input type="checkbox"/> Sewer																																																																																																			
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H	NO. FIRE SERVICE PERSONNEL RESPONDED																																																																																																												
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J	GENERAL PROPERTY USE																																																																																																												
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P	DETECTOR PERFORMANCE																																																																																																												
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T	EQUIPMENT INVOLVED																																																																																																												

U OFFICER IN CHARGE (Last, First, Initial) **Doug Buckles, CHIEF** DATE **12-24-89** VEHICLE MAKE, MODEL, YEAR **DARRELL MORGAN** SERIAL NO. **1-8-90**

Chief Buckles

On 12-21-89 while answering an alarm at Johnson City Country Club we received an alarm for John Senior Center. All responding units left at once except 821. Upon arriving 820 pulled. A 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ " line from ladder 1 was attached to the fire. After donning full equipment I proceeded to assist Capt. Tiernot. At this time I noticed heavy smoke from upper floors and proceeded at this time to use P.S.O. personnel to begin rescue procedures. We began at the stairs facing Park St. bringing people down stairs from 2nd and 3rd floors. We worked this area until we found no more people. I then moved to the lobby entrance on Fondaco Cr. to assist fire fighting. The fire personnel had a 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ " line inside. I immediately called for a 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " line and used the 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ " as a back-up. After seeing this section was managed I proceeded to the west end of the building to the stairwell and again began rescue operations. Before I went to this area Capt. Tiernot and myself was in agreement to call in off duty personnel. I worked this area with off duty people searching 4th & 5th floors. After getting relief for myself and the people with me I went back to Fondaco Cr. to get new order from Chief Buckles. At this time I was ordered to go to Market St. side and direct ventilation and fire fighting activities at this side of the building.

Summarizing the situation Capt. Tierant directed fire fighting and I directed rescue. I felt our personnel did a great job for such a bad situation. My people used every effort to save lives and protect property.

12-27-89
Lt. Mike Rak

TO CHIEF BUCKUS
 FROM: ROGER TEWERT (820)
 SUBJECT: FIRE - John Squire Center 12-24-89

AT THE TIME THE ALARM CAME IN
 609155. 1-8-45-TW... WERE AT JOHNSON CITY
 COUNTRY CLUB. ENGINES 2-3-4-11-10W-SW
 WERE DISPATCHED TO JOHN SQUIRE CENTER
 AT 12:11. IN ROUTE COMM CENTER INFORMED
 US THAT THERE WAS A FIRE ON THE FIRST
 FLOOR. UPON MY ARRIVAL I SAW FLAME
 COMING FROM A WINDOW ON EAST SIDE
 OF BUILDING FACING RAIN ST. LADDER
 TRUCK 1... ARRIVED ABOUT THE SAME TIME
 I PROCEEDED TO LADDER ONE. PULL ONE
 BY LINE TO WINDOW AND PUT ON
 FIRE. AFTER ABOUT TWO MINUTES FIRE
 WAS OUT IN ROOM. I PROCEEDED TO
 FOUND RE SIDE OF BUILDING WHICH
 IS NORTH SIDE OF BUILDING AND SAW
 ONE 1/2 LINE FROM ENGINES #3 IN DOOR
 WAY. ENGINE 3 CREW WAS INCONTAINING
 HEAVY SMOKE & HEAT AT DOOR THEY
 BACK OUT AND PULLED ONE FORWARD
 2 1/2 NOSE AND MADE ANOTHER ATTACK ON
 FIRE WITH 1/2 1/2 BACKUP LINES. LT. NASH
 WAS TO HANDLE RECON OPERATION AT
 THIS TIME. APPROX 5-10 MIN INTO FIRE
 I NOTIFIED COMM CENTER TO GET SOME
 HOLD BY CALLING OFF FIRE FIGHTERS AND
 POLICE PERSONNEL AND INFORMED THEM
 TO CALL GAS CO. & POWER BOARD.
 AS THE LINES WERE BEING ADVANCED
 CEILING WAS FALLING WITH HEAVY

FIRE IN THEM. WE MADE GOOD PROGRESS
 TO ABOUT 40 FEET IN BUILDING WHEN
 WE ENCOUNTER HEAVY FIRE ON BOTH
 SIDES AND IN FRONT OF US. THERE
 WAS QUITE A FEW AREAS THAT TOOK AN
 EXTRA AMOUNT OF WATER TO PUT OUT.
 PROGRESS WAS SLOW FROM THAT POINT.
 THE SMOKE WAS PLACED ON FLOOR CEILING
 TO BEGIN ^{ROOF} OPERATIONS. THE TOWER WAS
 INITIALLY PLACED ON MARKET. THERE
 WERE PEOPLE AT A FEW WINDOWS. SOME
 WE COULD REACH SOME WE COULDN'T.
 LT WASH HAD PEOPLE EXITING BUILDING
 AT ALL STAIRWAYS FOR RESCUE.
 RESCUE SQUAD WERE ASSISTING WITH
 EVACUATION. AT OUR POINT ABOUT
 45 MINUTES INTO THE FIRE. WE HAD
 NO AIR BOTTLES AND THAT HAMPERS
 OPERATIONS FOR A FEW MINUTES. THERE
 WERE MANY PEOPLE WANTING TO
 GO INTO BUILDING TO GET SOMETHING
 OUT BUT WERE NOT ALLOWED. ONLY FIRE
 AND POLICE PERSONNEL WERE ALLOWED.
 ABOUT AN HOUR HAD PASTED. THEN WE STARTED
 TO GET MORE AIR BOTTLES. LT SHIPLEY
 AND OFFICER RICK STUBBS WERE SENT
 TO FILL EMPTY AIR BOTTLES INITIALLY.

MASTER PERSONNEL WATCH MANIFEST
JOHNSON CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

WATCH COMMANDER _____
LIEUTENANT JACK SHIPLEY 115 (320)
LIEUTENANT _____
SERGEANT BECKY WEST 272 (399)
SERGEANT _____
SERGEANT MIKE HARRIS 189
DESK SERGEANT _____

DECEMBER 24 1988
MONTH DAY YEAR
3 30 1600-2000 SUNDAY
PLATOON WATCH WEEKDAY
EARLY OFF: 8

AD

ZONE 1	PSO	G. LESJER	I. D.	316	UNIT	311/5112	D. P. A.	1	A
	PSO	P. FRITTS	I. D.	289	UNIT	312/5117	D. P. A.	2	B
	PSO		I. D.		UNIT		D. P. A.		A
ZONE 2	PSO	D. HARRISON	I. D.	275	UNIT	321/5114	D. P. A.	1	B
	PSO	R. PIERCE	I. D.	266	UNIT	322/5115	D. P. A.	2	A
	PSO	T. DITTO	I. D.	179	UNIT	323/5155	D. P. A.	3	E
ZONE 4	PSO	R. STEVENS	I. D.	217	UNIT	341/5264	D. P. A.	1	A
	PSO		I. D.		UNIT		D. P. A.		B
	PSO	L. GAUGHN	I. D.	333	UNIT	343/5279	D. P. A.	2	A
ZONE 6	PSO		I. D.		UNIT		D. P. A.		E
	PSO	J. HANS	I. D.	330	UNIT	362/5252	D. P. A.	2	A
	PSO	J. SHEPHERD	I. D.	121	UNIT	363/5151	D. P. A.	1	B
	K-9	L. DEMPSEY	I. D.	257	UNIT	K-9-3/5270	ZONE		10-001/00hrs
	K-9		I. D.		UNIT		ZONE		
	PSO	D. PIERCE	I. D.	108	UNIT	351/5136	ZONE		CITYSIDE A

OFF DUTY	PSO	A. DALPIAZ	I. D.	314	REASON	VACATION
	PSO	K. HERRICH	I. D.	150	REASON	VACATION
	PSO	J. HUSKINS	I. D.	065	REASON	COMP TIME
	PSO	G. SMITH	I. D.	158	REASON	VACATION
	PSO		I. D.		REASON	

WATCH COMMANDER'S SIGNATURE: *J. Jack Shipley*

JOHNSON CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

JOHN SEVIER CENTER FIRE, DEC. 24, 1989

EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL USED TO CONTROL FIRE

PERSONNEL

JOHNSON CITY FIRE DEPT.....64
 JOHNSON, CITY POLICE.....61
 OTHER RESPONDING AGENCIES...UNKNOWN

FIRE ENGINES, LADDER TRUCKS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT

FIRE ENGINES

2... 1500gpm AMERICAN LAFRANCE
 # 3... 1500gpm AMERICAN LAFRANCE
 # 4... 1000gpm PIRCH

LADDER TRUCKS

LADDER # 1 ... 1000gpm MAXUM QUAD
 SNORKEL #1 .. 85' ELEVATING SNORKEL, AMERICAN LAFRANCE
 TOWER # 1 102' ELEVATING PLATFORM, GRUMMAN, 1500gpm.

OTHER VEHICLES

818... FIRE CHIEF'S CAR
 819... ADM. ASST. CHIEF'S CAR
 820... 4X4 SCAT (QUICK ATTACK VEHICLE) ASST. CHIEF
 821... 4X4 SCAT CAPTAIN
 822... 4X4 SCAT LIEUTENANT
 826... UTILITY TRUCK

EQUIPMENT USED TO CONTROL FIRE

175... SELF CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS
 600-700 COMPRESSED AIR BOTTLES
 2000'.. 1 AND 3/4" FIRE HOSE
 900'... 3" FIRE HOSE
 1500'.. 2½" FIRE HOSE 2450
 200'.. 1" BOOSTER HOSE (SPOT FIRES)
 9..... 1 AND 3/4" NOZZLES
 3..... 2½" NOZZLES
 3..... MASTER STREAM NOZZLES ON ELEVATED LADDERS CHARGED
 3..... 200' ROPE LIFELINES
 1 CRANE FROM MURPHY CRANE SERVICES
 2.... 35' GROUND LADDERS
 2..... 20' ROOF LADDERS
 5..... 14' AND 16' ROOF MADDERS
 3..... 24' PUMPER EXTENSION LADDERS
 A NUMBER OF VARIOUS HAND TOOLS SUCH AS AXES, PIKE POLES, LIGHTS
 2..... PORTABLE COMPRESSOR SYSTEMS FOR FILLING AIR BOTTLES

REGION I RESCUE SQUADS

REGION I VICE-PRESIDENT: Vernon DeBord, 577 Roddy Dr., Morristown, TN		37814
REGION I SECRETARY: Ron Martin, 5016 Doss Rd., Kingsport, TN		37663
<u>BEAN STATION RESCUE SQUAD</u>		581-4709
Rt. #2 Box 14-B, Bean Station, TN 37708		
CAP.: Don Dalton, Rt. 2, Sneedville, TN 37869	H-733-2818	B-581-4709
U.D.: Carl Phillips, Rutledge, TN 37861	H-828-4039	B-
MEET: 1st & 3rd Thursday in every month at 7:00 pm.		
<u>BLUFF CITY RESCUE SQUAD</u>		538-6321
Box 239, Bluff: City, TN 37618		
CAP.: Ronnie Luster, Box 241, BluffCity, TN 37618	H-538-6190	B-926-5151
U.D.: Jim Buckles, 47 Pinebrook Dr. Apt.-3, Bristol, VA 24201	H-466-6781	B-968-6943
MEET: 1st Tuesday in every month at 7:00 pm.		
<u>BRISTOL LIFESAVING CREW, INC.</u>		703-669-5441
P.O. Box 302, Bristol, VA 24201		
CAP.: Jerry Fleenor, Rt. 5 Box 680, Blountville, TN 37617	H-323-2434	B-323-5121
U.D.: Kerry Haga, 21 Trail Rd., Bristol, VA 24201	H-669-0407	B-669-3129
MEET: Thursdays at 7:30 pm.		
<u>CARTER COUNTY EMERGENCY & RESCUE SQUAD</u>		542-8421
P.O. Box 682, Elizabethton, TN 37643		
CAP.: Glen Potter, 604 Watauga Ave. Elizabethton, TN 37643	H-543-7693	B-542-8421
I.D.:		
MEET: 1st & 3rd Thursday in every month at 7:30 pm		
<u>CHURCH HILL RESCUE SQUAD</u>		357-6010
P.O. Box 611, Church Hill, TN 37642		
CAP.: Stanly Arnold, Rt. 2, Church Hill, TN 37642	H-357-5198	B-357-6010
U.D.: Terry Gilliam, Rt. 4, Church Hill, TN 37642	H-357-7868	B-
MEET: Every Tuesday at 7:30 pm.		
<u>ERWIN EMERGENCY & RESCUE SQUAD</u>		743-5361
P.O. Box 406. Erwin. TN 37650		
CAP.: Roger Lloyd, Rt. 3 Box 59-G, Erwin, TN 37650	H-743-3414	B-743-9121
U.D.: Maurice Rice, Rt.:. 1 Flag fond, TN 37657	H-743-7596	B-743-9151
MEET.: 1st & 3rd Tuesday in every month at 7:00 pm.		
<u>GRAINGER COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD</u>		828-4020
Water St., Rutledge, TN 37861		
CAP.: Jimmie Phipps, Rt. 2, Powder Springs, TN 37848	H-497-2612	B-497-2821
U.D.: Randy Morgan, Rt, 2 Box 352, Rutledge, TN 37861	H-828-4373	B-506-2302
MEET.: 1st & 3rd Thursday in every 7:30 pm.		

<u>JOHNSON COUNTY EMERGENCY RESCUE SQUAD</u>		727-6221
203 Vandilla St., Mtn. City, TN 37683		
CAP.: Charlie Ward, Box 23; Mtn. City, TN 37683	H-727-9681	B-727-9111
U.D.: Chester Reecc, Rt. 1, Trade, TN 37680	H-727-6398	B-727-9531
MEET: Every Monday in every month at 7:00 pm.		
<u>JONESBORO EMERGENCY & RESCUE SQUAD</u>		753-5530
P.O. Box 361, Jonesboro, TN 37659		
CAP.: Charles Snyder, Rt, 2, Jonesboro, TN 37659	H-753-6188	B-753-6188
G.D.: Robert Arrowood, Rt. 11 Box 7, Jonesboro, TN 37659	H-753-4744	B-753-4744
MEET: Every Thursday in every month at 7:30 pm.		
<u>KINGSPORT LIFESAVING CREW</u>		245-5311
1800 Crescent Dr., Kingsport, TN 37662		
CAP.: John Hubbard, 240 Royal Dr. , Kingsport, TN 37663	H-239-6851	B-247-9111
U.D.: Joe Arnold, U.D. TN 37617	H-323-9674	B-229-2139
MEET: 1st, 2nd & 3rd Monday in every month at 7:00 pm.		
<u>LIMESTONE FIRST RESPONDER RESCUE UNIT, INC.</u>		257-2571
P.O. Box 26, Limestone, TN 37681		
CAP.: Gale Hensley, Rt. 2, Limestone, TN 37681	H-257-3345	B-929-7101
U.D.: Dr. Edward Matthews, Rt. 9, Greensville TN 37743		B-639-4101
Meet: 2nd Wednesday in every month at 7:00 pm		
<u>MORRISTOWN EMERGENCY & RESCUE SQUAD</u>		586-1313
CAP.: Lynn Lawson. 1020 E. Main. Morristown, TN 37814	H-581-1741	B-586-7000
U.D.: Jackye Byrd, 1175 Little Mtn. Rd., Russellville, TN 37860	H-581-4469	B-586-7000
MEET: Every Thursday in every month at 7:30 pm.		
<u>NEWPORT, RESCUE SQUAD</u>		623-2046
P.O. Box 364, NEWPORT, TN 37821		
CAP.: J. B. Etherton, Rt. 1 Box 254 F-1, Newport, TN 37821	H-623-2231	B-623-3795
U.D.: Ester Baker, Box 951, Gate City, VA 24251	H-623-1384	B-
MEET: 2nd Tuesday in every month at 7:00 pm.		
<u>SCOTT COUNTY VA LIFESAVING CREW</u>		703-386-3571
P.O.Box 1088 Gate City, VA 24251		
CAP.: Robert Thompson, Box 696, Gate City, VA 24251	H-386-3234	B-
U.D.: Ester Baker, Box951, Gate City, VA 24251	H-386-9339	B-229-2502
MEET: 1st & 2nd Monday in every month at 7:00pm.		
<u>SULLLVAN COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD</u>		323-6276
Rt. 3, Box 1076 TCADS, Blountville, TN 37617		
CAP.: Bill Morton, Rt. 5 Box 1148, Blountville, TN 37617	H-323-8136	B-323-8136
U.D.: Steve Surgenor, Rt. 3 130x 125, Blountville, TN 37617	H-323-5016	B-2292165
MEET: 1st & 2nd Monday in every month at 7:30 pm.		

<u>GRAY RESCUE SQUAD</u>		477-8600
P.O. Box 8188, Gray, TN 37615		
GAP.: Bill Robbins, Rt. 7, Jonesboro, TN 37659	H-348-6625	B-247-9111
U.D.: Donald Hubbard, Rt. 4, Kingsport, TN 37660	H-348-6683	B-229-4588
MEET: 1st Monday in every month at 7:00 pm.		
 <u>GREENEVILLE EMERGENCY & RESCUE SQUAD</u>		638-3441
P.O. Box 241, Greenville, TN 37743		
CAP.: Connie Letcalfe, 101 Hillrise Dr., Greenville, TN 37743	H-639-2824	B-638-4147
U.D.: Iby Crum, 1326 Kenny St., Greenville, TN 37743	H-639-3572	B-638-3441
MEET: Every Monday in every month at 7:00 pm.		
 <u>HANCOCK COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD</u>		733-8833
P.O. Box 207, Sneedville, TN 37869		
CAP.: Gary Dosset, Rt. 4 Box 205, Sneedville, TN 37869	H-733-4313	B-733-8833
U.D.: Marvin James, Box 33, Sneedville, TN 37869	H-733-2946	B-733-2946
MEET: 2nd Thursday in every month at 7:30 pm.		
 <u>HAWKINS COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD</u>		272-2695
P.O. Box 213, Rogersville, TN 37857		
CAP.: Eddie Williams, Rt. 1 Box 43-C, Rogersville, TN 37857	H-272-2969	B-246-5134
U.D.: John Murnane, Rt. 4 Box 1145, Rogersville, TN 37857	H-272-3456	B-272-2695
MEET: Every Thursday in every month at 7:30 pm.		
 <u>HICKORY TREE FIRE & RESCUE</u>		538-6121
Rt. 3 Box 1445, Bluff City, TN 37618		
CAP.: Jerry Craig, Rt. 3 Box 2875, Bluff City, TN 37618	H-538-4769	B-878-3071
U.D.: Herman Carrier, Rt. 3 Box 1445, Bluff City, TN 37618	H-538-7777	B-
MEET: 1st Tuesday in every month at: 7:30 pm.		
 <u>JEFFERSON COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD</u>		397-3973
P.O. Box 261, Dandridge, TN 37725		
CAP.: Garland McCoig, Box 752, Dandridge, TN 37725	H-397-3020	B-
U.D.: Beecher Cochran, 1004 Burnette St., Jefferson C., 37760	H-475-4283	B-
MEET: 2nd & 4th Monday in every month at 7:00 pm.		
 <u>JOHNSON CITY EMERGENCY & RESCUE SQUAD</u>		926-4142
507 E. Main St., Johnson City, TN 37601		
CAP.: David Freeman, Rt. 8 Box 374, Jonesboro, TN 37659	H-753-2679	B-753-2196
U.D.: Tim Robinson, Rt. 3 Box 6-2, Jonesboro, TN 37659	H-929-3337	B-928-8278
MEET: 1st & 3rd Thursday in every month at 7:00 pm.		

Bloomingdale Fire Department
 North Kingsport Fire Department
 Warriors Path Fire Department
 Bluff City Vol. Fire Department
 Sullivan County Vol. F.D.
 Sullivan West Vol. F.D.
 Kingsport F.D.
 Bristol, Tenn. F.D.
 Central Community F.D.
 Hampton, Valley Forge F.D.
 Stoney Creek Vol. F.D.
 Elizabethton F.D.
 West Carter County Vol. F.D.
 Watauga Vol. F.D.
 Jonesborough F.D.
 Embreeville F.D.
 Nolichucky F.D.
 Limestone F.D.
 Sulphur Springs F.D.
 Morristown F.D.
 Avoca Vol. F.D.
 Piney Flats F.D.
 Gray Vol. F.D.
 Unicoi F.D.
 South Unicoi Vol. F.D.
 Erwin F.D.

Murphy Crane & Rigging
 Tennessee Highway Patrol at Fall Branch
 Professional Scuba, Inc.
 Virginia State Police, Aviation Division
 Walmart Department Store
 Mahoney's
 Wiseman's
 Hardees

Bean Station Rescue Squad
 Bluff City Rescue Squad
 Bristol Lifesaving Crew, Inc.
 Carter County Emergency & Rescue Squad
 Church Hill Rescue Squad
 Erwin Emergency & Rescue Squad
 Gray Rescue Squad
 Greeneville Emergency & Rescue Squad
 Hancock County Rescue Squad
 Hawkins County Rescue Squad
 Hickory Tree Fire & Rescue
 Johnson City Emergency & Rescue Squad
 Johnson County Emergency & Rescue Squad
 Jonesborough Emergency & Rescue Squad
 Kingsport Lifesaving Crew
 Limestone First Responder Rescue Unit, Inc.
 Morristown Emergency & Rescue Squad
 Sullivan County Rescue Squad
 Sharpe's Ambulance Service, Inc.
 Greene County Ambulance Authority
 Hawkins County E.M.S.
 Sullivan County E.M.S.
 Quality Care Medical, Inc.
 S & S Convalescent Services

FIRST RESPONDERS ON JOHNSON CITY FIRE

Fire Marshal George Leonard

1st Alarm Engine 2 -	Driver	Gerald Moore
	Public Safety	David Harris
	Officers	R. Pierce
		T. Ditto

Engine 3	Driver	Charles Alexander
	Firefighter	Mike Hamilton
	Firefighter	Don Nelson
	Firefighter	Buddy Collins

Engine 4	Driver	Chester Campbell
	Firefighter	Danny Jones
	PSO	Rick Stevens
	PSO	J. Vaughn

Ladder #1	Driver	Jerry Leonard
	Firefighter	Steve Weaver

NOTE: PSO's responded, but names are not known.

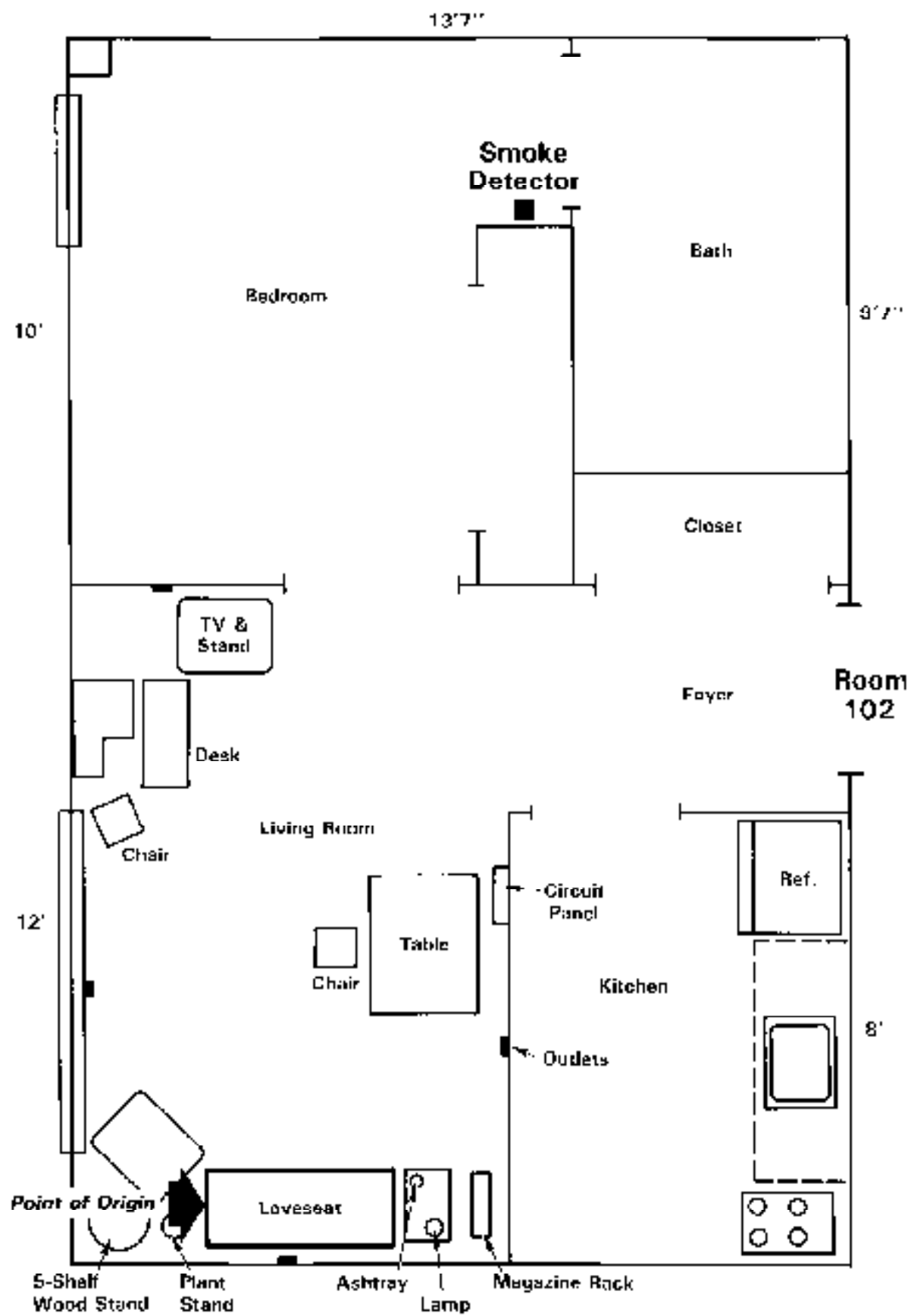
Tower -	Driver	Charles Hawkins
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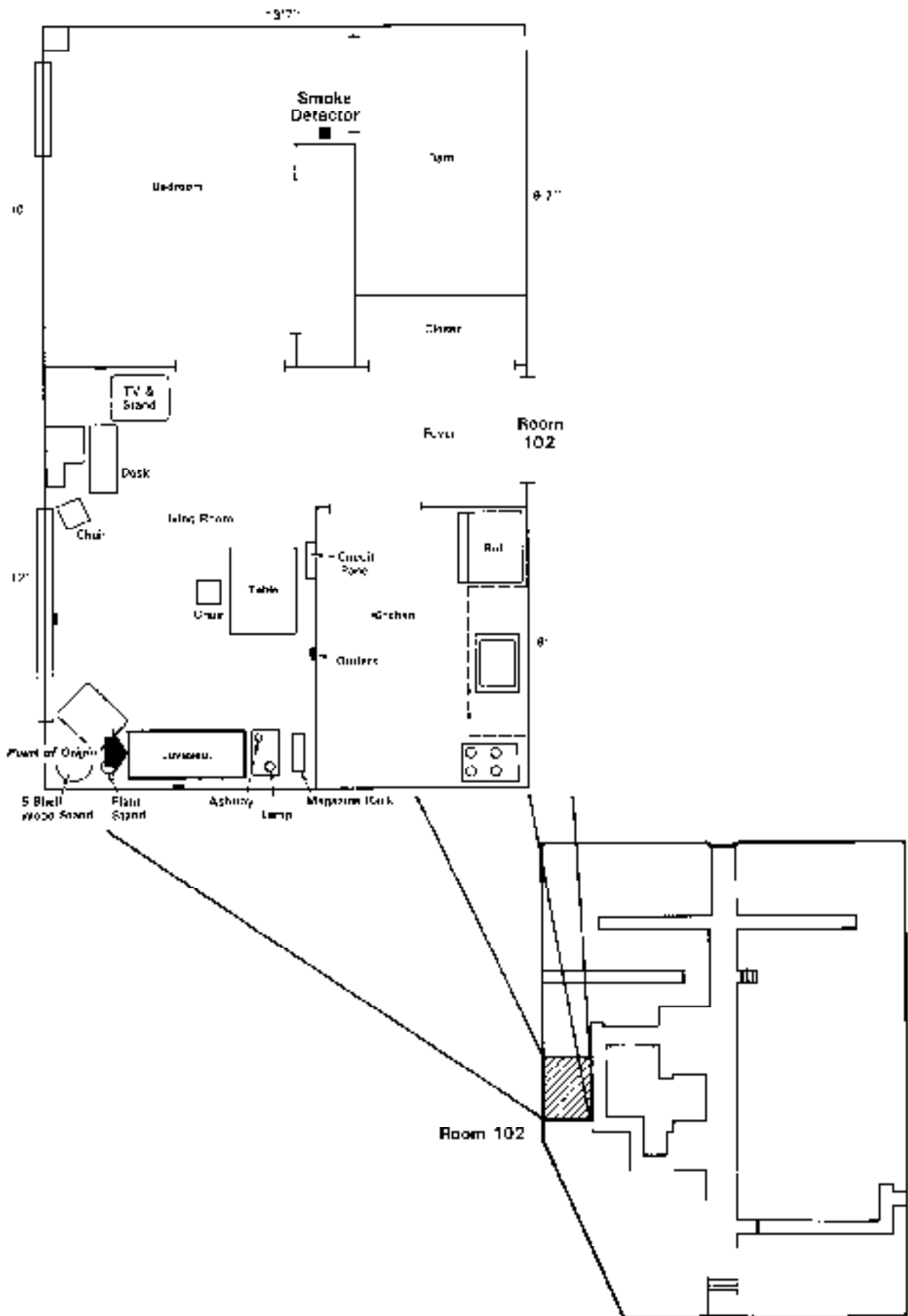
Snorkel -		Paul Holder
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PSO's responding	8:20	Acting Asst. Chief Roger Tienart
	8:21	Acting Lt. Stanley Daniels
	8:22	Lt. Acting Capt. Mike Nash

Appendix C

Floor Plans Showing Point of Origin





Appendix D

List of Photographs and Slides

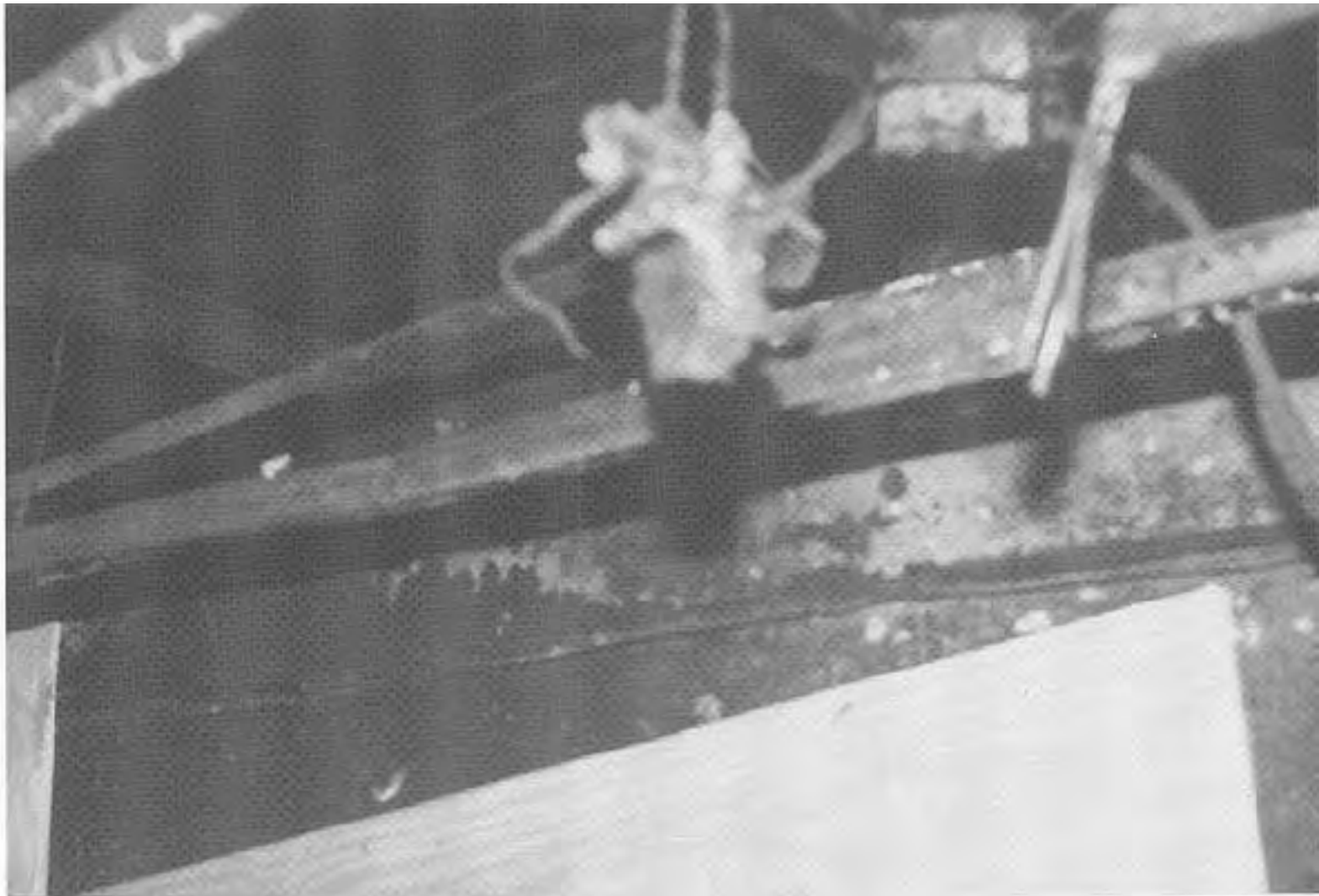
Slides and photographs are included with the master report at the U.S. Fire Administration. The pictures on the following pages were made from the items asterisked below. The diagram on the last page shows the position from which the photos were taken in the room of origin.

- *1. Street view from Roan Street near library shooting up.
- *2. Street view from Roan Street near library shooting level.
3. Shot from Fondo Circle looking at north entrance.
4. Shot inside from north entrance door, through lobby.
5. Controls for alarm panel (equipment).
6. AOT Fire Alarm Control Panel annunciator for fire alarm system.
7. Annunciator panel for general emergency and smoke alarm for individual rooms. Also, phone for fire use to individual floors for command office.
8. Shot of elevator in lobby north side elevation.
9. Overhead in lobby showing "L" shape vertical penetration to second floor.
- *10. Shot of Apt. 102 from hallway showing sheetrock not going to ceiling deck. Only just above drop ceiling.
11. Standpipe hose system next to Apt. 102 (room of origin).
12. Inside the apartment adjacent to Apt. 102 looking up a wall between apartments (sheetrock did not go to top of ceiling deck).
13. Inside entrance to Apt. 102 (room of origin).
14. Inside Apt. 102 looking in corner lower left, left of couch.
16. Couch, front view (area of origin) in Apt. 102.
- *17. Right side of couch, showing point of origin in corner at window.
18. Desk area from entry way.
19. Left side of door facing bedroom, left side.
21. Right side of door facing bedroom, right side.

22. View leaving Apt. 102 in hallway.
25. Inside of door frame, Apt. 102, showing where door closure had been removed.
26. Just outside of Apt. 102 in hallway showing burn pattern on door of Apt. 102 which may have been left open by occupant.
27. Smoke detector in Apt. 101 bedroom (similar to detector in all apartments).
29. Landing to second floor fire door.
- *30. Second floor looking down to mezzanine through burn hole in plywood floor.
31. Outside view from Roan and E. Market looking northwest.
32. Outside view of third floor level from Market Street looking northwest.
33. Outside view or rear of structure from on top of parking garage looking northeast.
34. Outside view from corner of downtown loop and S. Roan Street, looking south.
35. Outside view looking southwest from S. Roan and library.
36. Outside view looking west from S. Roan at Mumsey Church looking at room of origin.
37. Outside view from top of library looking southwest.







(Best Available Image)

