

CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
Safety and Enforcement Division
Gas Safety and Reliability Branch
Gas Engineering and Compliance Section

Incident Investigation Report

Report Date: 05/27/2020

Incident Number: G 20200116-2984

Utility: Southern California Gas SoCalGas

Date and Time of the Incident: 1/16/2020, 8:30:00 PM

Location of the Incident: ██████████
Glendale ,CA
County: Los Angeles

Summary of Incident:

On January 16, 2020, at approximately 1829 hours, Glendale Fire Department (GFD) notified SoCalGas of a structural fire in a two-story, eight-unit apartment complex that may involve SoCalGas' facilities. There were eight individuals who received minor injuries but there were no fatalities. SED investigation found that the fire originated in the building and SoCalGas facilities were not involved. Therefore, SED did not find any General Order (GO) 112-F, Reference Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 192, violations by SoCalGas.

Casualties: *Fatalities:* 0 *Injuries:* 8

Property Damage: \$4,484.00

Utility Facilities involved:

Pipe Material = Steel, Pipe Size = 0.75 (inches), MAOP = 40 (psi), Operating Pressure = 35 (psi)

Witnesses:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Phone</i>
-------------	--------------	--------------

1	Desmond Lew	CPUC Investigator	N/A
2	██████████	Senior Pipeline Safety and C	██████████
3	██████████	Pipeline Safety and Complia	██████████
4	Jon Payne	Glendale Fire Captain	(818) 550-5685

Evidence:

<i>Source</i>	<i>Description</i>
1 ██████████	01/16/20 Initial Report
2 ██████████	01/17/20 420 Initial Report
3 ██████████	02/14/20 PHMSA F7100.1 Report
4 Jon Payne	03/20/20 Phone Interview

Observations and Findings:

On January 16, 2020, at approximately 1829 hours, GFD notified SoCalGas of a structural fire in a two-story, eight-unit apartment complex that may involve SoCalGas' facilities. GFD along with neighboring agencies were dispatched to the scene and extinguished the fire. Six people including a child, were rescued from the complex and two firefighters received minor injuries. Three of the residents were treated at the scene while the other four were transported to a nearby hospital for minor smoke inhalation. In addition, two firefighters were admitted to the hospital and released the same day. The eight-unit apartment complex was a total loss, and the adjacent apartment complex experienced a service interruption due to the meter set assemblies (MSA's) being in potential danger of the wall collapse. Approximately 18 customers were without service for nine days until the danger of the wall collapse was removed.

Glendale police and GFD evacuated at least 35 people and the one block area was closed to traffic. SoCalGas' crew excavated the gas service line near the property line and abandoned the service and branch to the two adjacent structures because the MSA's was not accessible due to the fire undermining the integrity of the apartment complex. The incident was reported to both DOT (Report number 1268905) and CPUC due to property damages exceeding \$50,000, media coverage, and a potential release of gas into the atmosphere.

SoCalGas facilities include a 2-inch steel main installed in 1945 running north-south along the easterly side of Carr Drive. The service and branch serving ██████████ and ██████████ Carr Drive is a 1-inch plastic installed in 2008. SoCalGas found the MSA service valve of both ██████████ and ██████████ in the closed position. Glendale Building and Safety evaluated the leaning wall of the damaged building and determined it posed minimal potential danger to the exposed MSA and allowed SoCalGas to enter and

abandoned service to [REDACTED] and restore service to [REDACTED]. The service was abandoned for the [REDACTED] because the building was damaged beyond repair.

SoCalGas' field crew performed a leak investigation survey (Gas Standard 184.0245) and collected gas samples using DP-IR unit and the result was zero indication of gas leak in the immediate area. On January 17, 2020, at 0930 hours, SED staff arrived at the incident site and met with SoCalGas and City of Glendale representatives. According to the GFD, the fire started in the apartment complex and caused extensive damage. According to Glendale building and safety's staff, the apartment complex sustained heavy damage, was deemed unsafe, and was red tagged.

On January 25, 2020, SoCalGas' crew completed the restoration of service to all affected customers (total 18 customers) in the adjacent apartment building. This was after Glendale Building and Safety evaluated the potential danger of the destroyed building and considered it safe for SoCalGas' crews to restore service. The estimated cost to repair SoCalGas' facility was \$550 and the estimated cost of SoCalGas' emergency response was \$3,934.

According to SoCalGas' leakage survey records, the last leakage survey was completed in May 2019 with zero leak indications. The area is considered a Class 3 location, with MAOP of 40 psig, MOP of 35 psig. The two-inch steel main was installed in 1945 and the MSA's were installed in 1975. In addition, SoCalGas Call Center did not receive any calls of odor complaints prior to the incident.

On March 20, 2020, SED contacted GFD and spoke with Jon Payne, Lead investigator. Mr. Payne stated that the two-story apartment building sustained serious damage and his crew was unable to access the location where the fire started (middle of the building) to perform rigorous testing, because the fire undermined the integrity of the structure. In addition, Mr. Payne stated that the fact there were no sign of explosion or suggestion of a gas cause, his preliminary investigation indicated SoCalGas facilities were not involved in the incident. Because rigorous testing could not be undertaken to rule out gas cause with 100% certainty, the official cause of the fire was "Undetermined".

Preliminary Statement of Pertinent General Order, Public Utilities Code Requirements, and/or Federal Requirements:

<i>General Order</i>	<i>GO Rule</i>
1 GO112F	49 CFR Part 192, Section 192.353 Meter locatio
2 GO112E	49 CFR Part 192, Section 192.723 Leakage Sur
3 GO112E	49 CFR Part 192, Section 192.727 Abandonme

Conclusion:

Based on the GFD report, SED investigation found that the fire started inside the middle of the apartment complex and engulfed the entire building. SoCalGas' facilities were not involved in the fire. Therefore, SED did not find any GO 112-F, Reference Title 49 CFR, Part 192, violations by SoCalGas.