

JANUARY 23, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GHOST SHIP FIRE STARTED IN ADJACENT BUILDING

The defense team for Derick Ion Almena has received a reliable scientific report, a copy of which accompanies this release, indicating that the origin of the fire was at the building adjacent to the so-called Ghost Ship warehouse. Such should reasonably foreclose any criminal negligence charges against Mr. Almena. Recall that the ATF could not conclude where the fire originated. The reasonable doubt here is overwhelming.

-Jeffrey Krasnoff

-Kyndra Miller

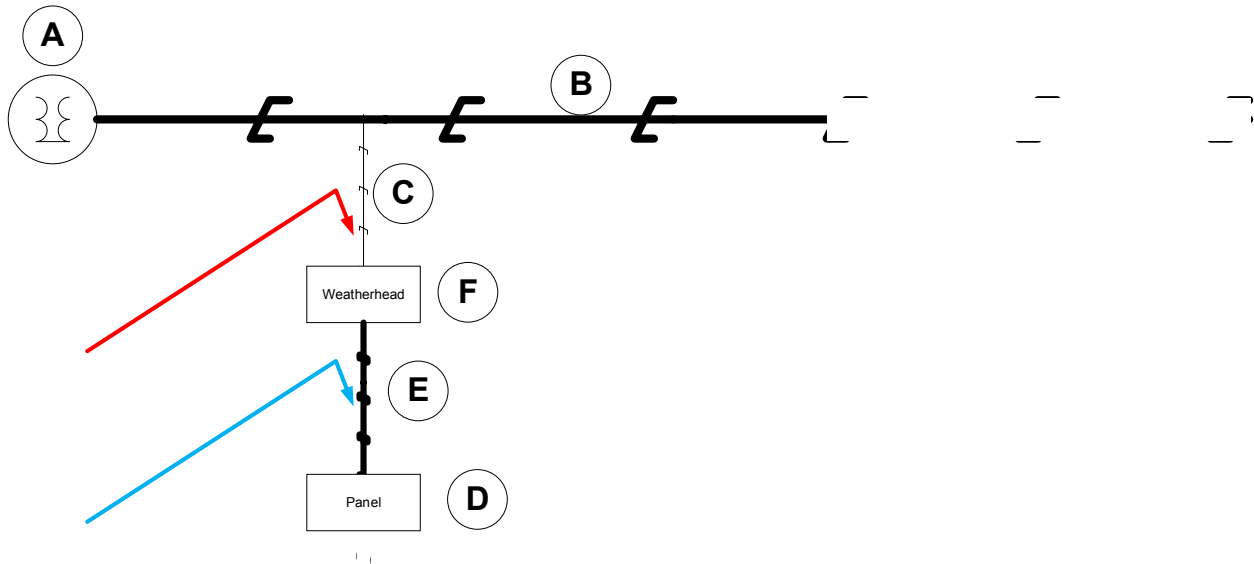
-J. Tony Serra

Was Ghost Ship fire caused by inadequate Utility Wiring?

Summary:

The electrical power into a building is divided into segments with different rules and responsibilities. If any of the power lines are too small then they are subject to potential overload leading to fire.

The following diagram illustrates the components:



A is the Utility Transformer.

B is the wire from the transformer feeding multiple customers (Distribution Line)

C is the drop line from the Utility to the entry point to the building. Typically a Weatherhead (F) which protects the conduit from accumulating water inside the pipes which feed the wires (E) to the distribution panel.

D is the actual point at which the power is then distributed to different end customer points. This may or may not have a meter in the panel or the customer meters may be remote.

Survey's and documents filed with the CPUC months prior to the Dec 2 fire show that the Utility has a deliberate practice of not sizing it's wiring to serve the size of the Panel and not informing Customers of this fact.

In the case of the 1305 – 31st Ave , Oakland property there appears to be a single feed that goes in to the building to serve multiple customers. It also appears that there is fire affecting more than just the Ghost Ship occupied section.

For the fire to have affected more than one section of the property it means that there must have been enough heat PRIOR TO the entry into the Ghost Ship section for fire to occur. This means the point of overload would have to have been in some common section.

1305 – 31st Avenue, Oakland, CA 94601



Observations:

- 1) No apparent direct utility drop to the building segment (Ghost Ship Unit) in question.
- 2) There are TWO apparent Utility drops to the complex as the buildings are adjacent and abutting to each other.
 - a. One at the Boost Mobile entrance



- b. The second appears to go to center building via drop line from rear on Derby Street to a roof mounted Weatherhead:



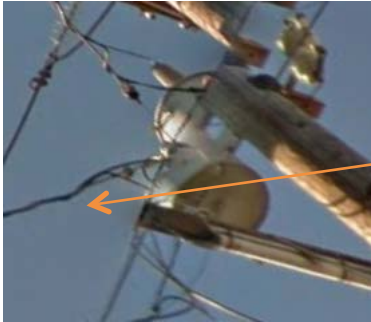
The Boost Mobile front side connection shows a clearly undersized PG&E drop when compared to the building services wires emerging from the weatherhead.

PG&E Drop wires. Undersized when compared to building wire.



Boost Mobile - Building service wires.
2x 4/0 copper wires per phase.
Capacity of 400Amps within the building

The Line drop from Derby Street is similarly small.



Immediate questions arise:

- 1) What was load history of that building?
- 2) What is the service panel size of the building?
- 3) What is the actual service delivery point that fed the building?
- 4) Why did MULTIPLE buildings lose power?
This indicates it was a common feed that failed not something specific to GS space.
- 5) What was the internal electrical configuration?
News reports indicated that the power was drawn to the Ghost Ship unit from the adjacent building.

On site Investigation and Inspection results:

Principal and a professional and licensed private investigator with JD degree reviewed the site and online resources on 1/14/17.

- 1) Fire seen on adjacent building:



Photographs drawn from Wikipedia Page on fire show fire hot spot on adjacent building DURING fire.
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/54485353@N05/30595918003/in/photostream/>

Julianna Brown Photographer

- 2) Drone images from Reuters show adjacent rooftop damage
<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-california-fire-idUSKBN13S0M9>



Roof peeled back on adjacent building and fire damage can be seen.



- 3) Pre-fire images from Google Streetview show rooftop pole extensions with electrical equipment at top: Lower left is a light. Other is unclear.

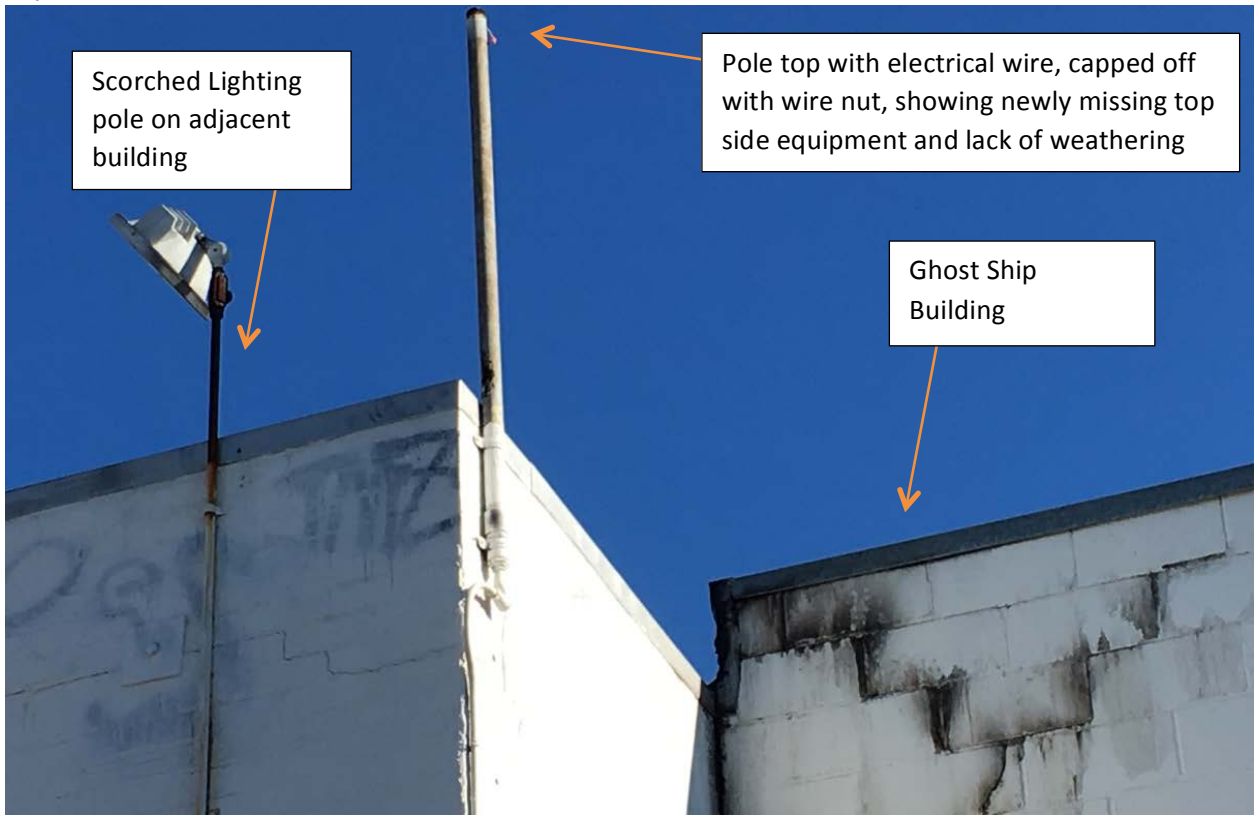


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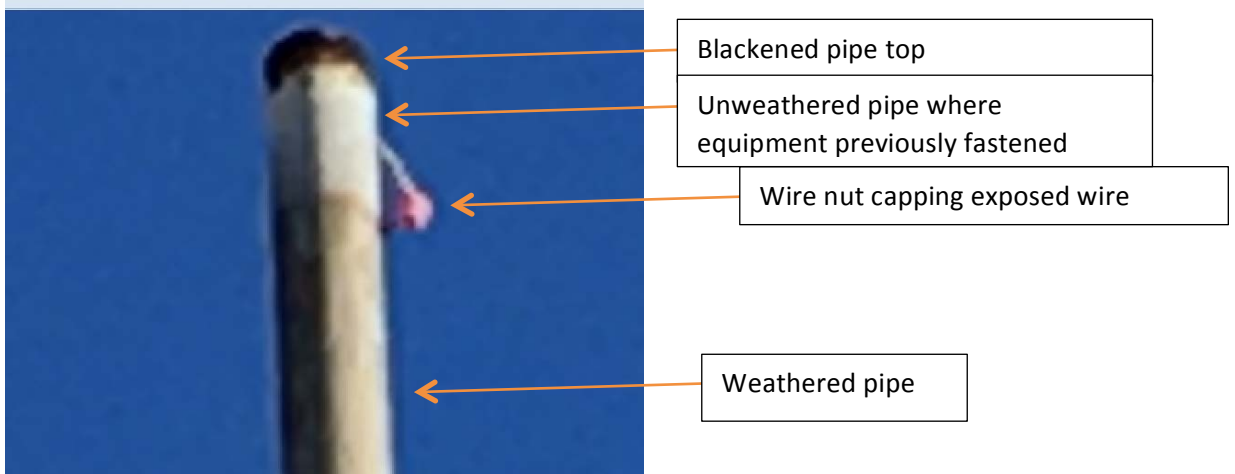
- 4) Post Fire shot show fire damage to Ghost Ship building and pole and one light with scorched fire damage. Other pole has equipment missing.



- 5) Close up clearly shows fire damage to poles. Also shows electrical wire and insulating wire nut in place.



- 6) Close up of pole where top is missing. Shows three colorations bands: black as if scorched at top, white where equipment was fastened and removed, weathered where previously exposed



- 7) The fire department cut service wires at the what appears to be the main service entry to the set of buildings:



Analysis as of 1/15/17:

These images indicate that

- 1) the fire was NOT constrained to the Ghost Ship Unit alone
- 2) damage was extensive enough inside the adjacent building to have the fire department removing the roof that was near but NOT directly adjacent to the Ghost Ship building.
- 3) The adjacent fire location is VERY close to the vertical path above the point reported 1st fire was seen by Aaron Marin a survivor of the fire
(<http://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Survivor-who-jumped-from-Ghost-Ship-window-10805005.php>) inside the ghost ship property
- 4) the fire was prolonged enough and hot enough to burn the paint and damage the conduit of the security light.
- 5) something electrical was present at the secondary tube (taller) and that it was removed post fire.
- 6) the top discoloration indicates the removed equipment from the taller tube may have been on fire due to the discoloration at the top of the tube.
- 7) Electrical distribution to the G.S. portion had to come from the inside of the second building as no other apparent power drop is present on the G.S. building itself.

New Questions:

- a) As it is apparent the power to the G.S. building had to come via the adjacent building AND it was apparent that there was fire IN the adjacent building did the fire actually start in the adjacent building?
 - a. If so, this would indicate some sort of inadequate wiring in the building but NOT necessarily in the Ghost Ship Section.
- b) Why was apparently damaged equipment on the roof of the adjacent building where fire damage is evident removed?
- c) What equipment or electrical routing was present between the two buildings? Was it at or near the fire damage on the adjacent building?
- d) Did the equipment now removed catch fire or was it the point of origin?
- e) Was the point of origin in the adjacent building?
- f) Inspection of the electrical panels is essential. What is their condition and location?