

From: Cherry, Brian K
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To: cjs@cpuc.ca.gov (cjs@cpuc.ca.gov)
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: FW: BCN, CCT - Early Morning Explosion Rips Through Richmond Home
More

From: News Flash
Sent: Tuesday, November 01, 2011 10:35 AM
Subject: BCN, CCT - Early Morning Explosion Rips Through Richmond Home

PG&E crews reported to a Richmond home explosion Tuesday morning. No other homes or nearby buildings were affected. The cause of the explosion is still under investigation, but investigators have determined there was no natural gas leak in the area.

Early Morning Explosion Rips Through Richmond Home

Bay City News, November 1, 2011

A Richmond house exploded early Tuesday, sending one of three people who were blown out of the home to the hospital with major injuries, a Richmond police lieutenant said.

Richmond police, fire crews and PG&E officials responded to the 3800 block of Ohio Avenue after a 2:21 a.m. call from a neighbor who said they had heard an explosion and saw light smoke, Lt. Shawn Pickett said.

The three people who had been inside the house were in front of the building when police arrived and said they heard the explosion and thought it was an earthquake. Pickett said it appeared the three had been blown out of the house.

One was sent to the hospital with major injuries, another person was treated at the scene and the third person refused treatment, Pickett said.

The three people had singed eyebrows and hair and appeared to be in shock, Pickett said. The house was leveled and one part of the building was completely disconnected after the blast.

Fire and **PG&E** crews were on scene as of 3:45 a.m. The cause of the fire is undetermined. Police are waiting to see if they will need to follow with an investigation if it appears there was criminal activity leading to the blast, Pickett said.

No other homes or nearby buildings were affected by the explosion or evacuated.

Catastrophic' Explosion Rocks Richmond Home

By Robert Salonga

Contra Costa Times, November 1, 2011

A mysterious explosion nearly shook a house from its foundation early this morning, and the home's occupants miraculously escaped injury, police said.

The explosion, reported at 2:21 a.m. in the 3800 block of Ohio Avenue, was isolated to the home where it occurred and left neighboring dwellings amazingly unscathed.

Richmond police Lt. Shawn Pickett said the house looked blown out, the walls warped and the backyard visible through the house from the front yard.

"I have never seen anything like it," Pickett said. "It was catastrophic."

Pickett said residents in the area thought there had been an earthquake.

Three occupants of the home were out front when police arrived. One was sent to the hospital with "flashover" injuries -- including singed eyebrows and hair and general shock -- but none were thought to be life threatening.

Investigators from the Richmond Fire Department are on scene and have ruled out a leaking gas line as a cause. The presence of gas is still likely a factor, Pickett said.

Pickett said there were signs suggesting that the occupants had unsecured propane tanks in the home and were working with an igniting element such as a blowtorch. The fire department has not commented on an exact cause.