

Contra Costa County Fire Protection District

Press Release

Subject: Piedmont Lumber Fire Investigation Concludes
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Piedmont Lumber Fire Investigation Concludes

Contra Costa County Fire Protection District (CCCFPD) fire investigators have announced that their investigation regarding the origin and cause of the fire which destroyed the Piedmont Lumber retail facility in Walnut Creek on March 13th of 2010 is officially completed and closed. According to CCCFPD Fire Investigator Vic Massenkoff the extensive investigation involved the thorough processing of the fire scene and follow up that included an analysis of the business and financial activities of Piedmont Lumber and Mill Company, Inc.

CCCFPD Investigators were assisted in the investigation by the Walnut Creek Police Department and the U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Investigators were able to determine the area of the facility that the fire originated in but the specific source of ignition and cause remain undetermined. Investigator Massenkoff stated that the investigation yielded no indication of any suspicious or criminal acts related to the cause of this fire. An arson fire that started along the exterior of a storage shed at Piedmont Lumber's Pittsburg facility in August of 2009 was confirmed to have been unrelated. Most of the resulting damage in that fire was sustained by the adjacent commercial property while Piedmont Lumber's damage was confined to two exterior storage sheds.

The Walnut Creek fire was first reported at 1:43 PM on Saturday, March 13th of 2010. The first CCCFPD fire unit arrived within minutes to find a large portion of the facility already involved in fire with adjacent buildings imminently threatened. The fire was deemed under control at 6:08 PM. Firefighters remained on the scene throughout that night. Fire Investigators remained on the scene and completed processing the scene on March 16th at 4:30 PM at which time they released the scene to the owners and Travelers Insurance Company representatives.

The fire resulted in over \$6,000,000.00 in damages and the remaining property is currently listed for sale.

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