

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

Incident Investigation Report

**Report Date:** 04/17/2020

**Incident Number:** G 20200124-2995

**Utility:** Southern California Gas      SoCalGas

**Date and Time of the Incident:** 1/24/2020, 1:43:00 PM

**Location of the Incident:** [REDACTED]  
MIRA LOMA ,CA  
County: Riverside

**Summary of Incident:**

On January 24, 2020, at approximately 1343 hours, a fire started in a single-family home at [REDACTED], Mira Loma, Riverside County. One fatality reported as a result of this incident. SED investigation found that the fire started inside the residence and engulfed the entire house. The intense heat damaged SoCalGas' Meter Set Assembly (MSA) and resulted in the release of natural gas into the atmosphere. Therefore, SED did not find any General Order 112-F, Reference Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 192, violations by SoCalGas.

**Casualties:** *Fatalities:* 1    *Injuries:* 0

**Property Damage:** \$400,000.00

**Utility Facilities involved:**

Pipe Material = Steel, Pipe Size = 0.75 (inches), MAOP = 60 (psi), Operating Pressure = 45 (psi)

**Witnesses:**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Phone</i>
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1	Sann Naing	CPUC Investigator	N/A
2	Kan-Wai Tong	Senior Utilities Engineer (Su	(213) 576-5700
3	Ali Matin (SCG)	Pipeline Safety & Compliance	(909) 919-0463
4	Mark Scoville	Battalion Chief (RCFD)	(951) 287-8078
5	██████████	Passerby	██████████

**Evidence:**

<i>Source</i>	<i>Description</i>
1 Ali Matin (SCG)	initial report and interview on 1/24/20
2 Mark Scoville (RCFD)	Telephone interview on 1/24/20 and 1/30/20
3 Ali Matin (SCG)	Rescinded report on 1/27/20
4 Riverside County Fire Department (RCFD)	Fire investigation report (20CARRU0011164)
5 Ali Matin (SCG)	Photos and data response on 4/10/20

**Observations and Findings:**

On January 24, 2020, at approximately 1343 hours, SoCalGas was notified by Riverside County Fire Department (RCFD) of a structural fire at ██████████, Mira Loma in Riverside County that may involve its facilities. The RCFD turned off the gas at the MSA, extinguished the fire. ██████████, age █ years old, a resident at the above address received severe burns (3rd degree burn) and was transported to Riverside Community Hospital where she succumbed to her injuries. SoCalGas' first responder arrived on the scene at 1430 hours, communicated with the fire department, and verified that the stopcock valve at the MSA was in off position.

On January 24, 2020, at approximately 1624 hours, SoCalGas reported the incident to DOT (#1269512) and CPUC due to the one fatality and potential involvement of SoCalGas' facilities.

SED' staff contacted Ali Matin, SoCalGas' Pipeline Safety Advisor, who provided SED with the contact information for the RCFD. According to Mr. Matin, SoCalGas' field crew arrived and performed a leak investigation survey (Gas Standard 184.0245) and collected gas sample near the riser and found a small gas leak at the stopcock valve. In addition, Mr. Matin stated that SoCalGas' crew repaired the leak and removed the MSA. The stopcock valve was left in closed position, the line was plugged, and a clamshell locking device was installed to prevent tempering with SoCalGas' facilities.

SED contacted Mark Scoville, RCFD's Battalion Chief, who stated that the cause of the fire still under investigation and he believed that neither Southern California Electric Company's facilities nor SoCalGas' gas facilities were the primary cause of this fire.

SoCalGas investigation found that the incident started inside the house and the intense heat from the fire caused the overhead electric service line to fail and landed on SoCalGas' MSA causing the MSA to melt and resulted in gas release into the atmosphere.

On January 27, 2020, SoCalGas sent an email to DOT requesting the incident be rescinded because its facilities was not the primary cause of the fire and the incident did not meet the reporting requirement under Title 49 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR), Part 191. Therefore, SoCalGas will not submit Form PHMSA F7100.1 and will close its reportability file for this incident.

On January 27, 2020, SoCalGas sent an email to SED indicating that its facilities were not the primary cause of the fire and the incident did not meet General Order 112-F reporting requirement. Therefore, SoCalGas stated that it will not submit Form CPUC-420 and consider the file closed.

On January 30, 2020, SED contacted Mr. Scoville to get an update on his investigation and to request a copy of his investigation report. Mr. Scoville reconfirmed his previous statement that SoCalGas' Gas facilities were not involved with this incident. Mr. Scoville requested SED to submit a request to obtain a copy of the incident investigation report.

On March 4, 2020, SED received a copy of RCFD's incident investigation report (20CARRU0011164). The report indicated that the cause of the fire was "undetermined". In addition, the report indicated that the estimated property loss was \$350,000 and estimated content loss was \$50,000.

On April 10, 2020, SED interviewed one witness, Ms. [REDACTED] over the telephone, who stated that she was driving when she saw the fire burning inside the house. She Immediately called 911 and reported the fire.

On April 10, 2020, Mr. Matin provided additional information pertaining to SoCalGas' facilities. The service riser was 3/4-in steel service riser with MAOP of 60 psig MAOP and MOP of 45 psig. Furthermore, Mr. Matin provided SED with photos of the incident scene including the single-family home, SoCalGas' MSA, and Southern California Edison Company's electric facilities. The photos showed that the MSA was completely melted as the result of the intense heat and falling debris.

SED investigation found that the fire started inside the residence and engulfed the entire house. The intense heat damaged SoCalGas' MSA and resulted in the

release of natural gas into the atmosphere. Therefore, SED did not find any General Order 112-F, Reference Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 192, violations by SoCalGas.

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

None

**Conclusion:**

SED investigation found that the fire started inside the residence and engulfed the entire house. The intense heat damaged SoCalGas' MSA and resulted in the release of natural gas into the atmosphere. Therefore, SED did not find any General Order 112-F, Reference Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 192, violations by SoCalGas.