



# SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATION REPORT

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
LE 71 (REV. 7/2011)

INCIDENT NUMBER
15CALNU008670
CASE NAME
VALLEY
UNIT
CASE NUMBER
LNU 15CALNU008670

DAY	MONTH	DATE	YEAR	COUNTY	REGION
SAT	SEPT	12	2015	LAKE	CNR

1 Interview with Charles Parker MILLS

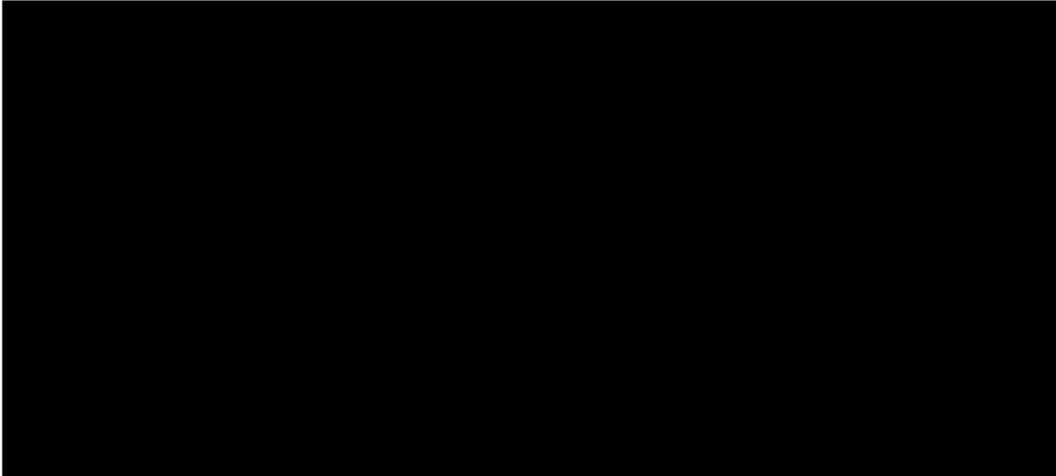
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3 Witnesses:

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5 Witness #1 (W1)

6 Charles Parker MILLS



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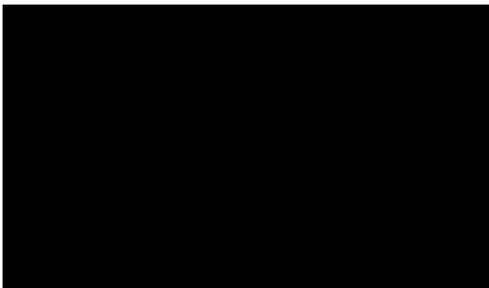
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16 Witness #2 (W2)



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23 On Wednesday, September 16, 2015 I was assigned as Prevention 1122 in the Mendocino Unit. At  
24 approximately 5:00 PM I interviewed Charles Parker MILLS at his residence at [REDACTED]  
25 [REDACTED] regarding his involvement with the property at 8015 High Valley Road, Cobb,  
26 CA; under investigation in the Valley Incident.

27

1 MILLS told me he and his wife, Laura, were in joint ownership of the 8015 High Valley Road property  
2 with a couple named John and Cindy PINCH. MILLS said PINCH currently lives at the 8015  
3 property and the property is the PINCH's primary residence, the MILLS's second residence, since  
4 2009 when the MILLS and PINCH bought the property. No other parties live at the house. MILLS  
5 said the property was a foreclosure and the house was represented as a finished house, however  
6 after the purchase MILLS and PINCH discovered the interior of the house needed to be finished.  
7 The finishing work was completed by MILLS and PINCH; primarily by John PINCH.

8  
9 MILL's wife, Laura (L MILLS), said the 8015 house was covered with homeowners insurance  
10 through Farmers Insurance Company. MILLS said he did not have the insurance information at the  
11 MILL's primary residence, [REDACTED] and therefore did not provide a policy number.  
12 L MILLS said she used a copy of the policy to get through the evacuation road block as a proof of  
13 residency, however she did not have the policy with her when I asked for it.

14  
15 MILLS said he was last at the 8015 property on the day of the fire, Saturday September 12, 2015.  
16 MILLS said he arrived at the 8015 property at 7 AM on the morning of September 12 and left in the  
17 afternoon of September 12 at approximately 3 PM, after the fire had started when CAL FIRE told him  
18 to evacuate. MILLS said he could not remember if he had stayed the night at the residence. L  
19 MILLS said she returned to the house after the fire with Annie SHELLBURG with a law enforcement  
20 escort to pick up the cat that lived at the house.

21  
22 MILLS said no one has burned debris on the property since the winter of 2014. MILLS said no one  
23 had burned debris this year and said he does not typically burn debris at the property. MILLS said  
24 PINCH would know if anyone burned debris at the property this year. MILLS said he hauls debris to  
25 the dump for disposal rather than burn it.

26  
27 MILLS said he could not think of any reason why someone would start a fire on the 8015 property.  
28 MILLS could not think of any neighbor disputes. MILLS said they do not barbecue on the property.  
29 MILLS said they do not have campfires, or warming fires, on the property.

30  
31 MILLS said there have been no electrical issues at the residence on 8015 High Valley Road. No  
32 fixtures or burning smells had been noted. The only power outages experienced by the house were  
33 considered the usual, normal power outages that one experiences when living in a rural area.

1  
2 MILLS said the circuit behind the house by the oak tree was for a motion sensing light, MILLS said it  
3 was installed in 2014 by John PINCH.

4  
5 MILLS said they were going to be moving the hot tub from its location by the side of the house on  
6 the deck to the garden area by the bridge. At the location in the garden area by the bridge, they  
7 were going to pour a slab and that is where the wire was. MILLS said it (the wire) was wired to a  
8 breaker in the box and "that was not an active wire." MILLS said the hot tub was bought as a used  
9 item in 2013 and was installed by PINCH. MILLS said the hot tub quit working over this last winter  
10 and was shut off. At this point in the interview, L MILLS asked MILLS "It hasn't been used in  
11 months?" MILLS replied to her, "It hasn't been used in months."

12  
13 MILLS said the wire that he knows about is a "Number 4 wire" that was sized by an electrician.  
14 MILLS said that is the wire that the hot tub is connected up to now. MILLS said he thinks the wire  
15 connected to the hot tub was installed by Mr. PINCH.

16  
17 MILLS said the house was owner-built by Ron DALY and could not easily remember the year in  
18 which the house was built. MILLS estimated the house was built in approximately 2005 or 2006.

19  
20 MILLS said a couple of electrical contractors were hired during the initial remodel of the house when  
21 it was purchased in 2009 to do odds and ends. The contractors were licensed; however he could  
22 not remember their names. Since 2009 all the electrical work had been completed by PINCH.  
23 When asked by me if the receipts for the work completed by those contractors in 2009 could be  
24 obtained, MILLS said Cindy PINCH manages the paperwork and receipts for the 8015 property and  
25 would be the person to contact. MILLS said PINCH would be the person to contact regarding who  
26 did the electrical work. MILLS said "I wasn't involved with this electrical connection in back, I  
27 assume they ran to the circuit breaker, and the circuit breaker was off."

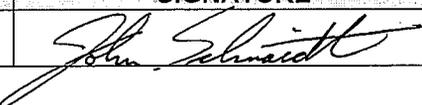
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29 Laura MILLS mentioned a potential lead of a lawnmower as an ignition source at the end of the  
30 interview. L MILLS said a man named Jaime said he spoke with a man named "Chip" who said he  
31 (Chip) tried to extinguish a fire that was ignited by a lawnmower. Jaime said "Chip" was Chip  
32 WHITEHEAD of Chip Whitehead's Landscaping and said WHITEHEAD saw someone mowing the  
33 dry annual grass at a house neighboring Cal Fire Chief Jim WRIGHT's house on [REDACTED]

1 when he saw a fire ignite from the mower. Allegedly, Chip helped try to extinguish the fire, according  
2 to Jaime, however the fire grew out of control and escaped. I told L MILLS I would pass the  
3 information on to investigators.

4  
5 I left MILLS with my contact information and told him I could be his CAL FIRE contact person until a  
6 representative is designated by the investigation team.

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8 END OF REPORT

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PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	BADGE NUMBER	DATE
J. Schnaidt		3001	9/17/2015