

**FREDERICK-FIRESTONE
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**



NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 2, 2017

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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FREDERICK-FIRESTONE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT RELEASES

RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION INTO

ORIGIN AND CAUSE OF APRIL 17th HOME EXPLOSION

Firestone, Colo. – The Frederick-Firestone Fire Protection District, through a joint effort with the Firestone Police Department and with the assistance of the Colorado Bureau of Investigation, has completed their investigation into the origin and cause of the April 17, 2017, home explosion and subsequent fire at 6312 Twilight Avenue in Firestone. The incident resulted in two fatalities and one person being critically injured.

On April 17, 2017, at 4:46 p.m. Frederick-Firestone F.P.D crews responded to a home explosion at the above address with the help of the Firestone Police Department, Mountain View Fire Rescue, Platteville-Gilcrest Fire Protection District and Longmont Fire. The adjacent home also briefly caught fire, but crews were able to quickly put it out, preventing the spread of the fire.

Since April 17th, investigators have been on scene diligently working with assisting agencies to piece together what caused this explosion. It has also been a top priority to ensure the safety of the surrounding area and residents through site and area monitoring and testing.

Investigators have reached the conclusion that the origin and cause of the explosion and subsequent fire that destroyed the Martinez home and damaged the neighboring home resulting in the deaths of Mark Martinez and Joey Irwin and the severe injury to Erin Martinez was unrefined, non-odorized gas that entered the home through a French Drain and Sump Pit due to a cut, abandoned gas flow line attached to an oil and gas well in the vicinity that, while abandoned, had not been disconnected from the wellhead and capped.

Officials have also determined that the flow line was controlled with the shut in, or ceasing of production of the well as a precaution taken on April 17 as part of initial response measures, and that no additional contamination or danger exists to neighboring homes.

Now that the origin and cause has been determined, the investigation will be turned over to the Firestone Police Department for the next phase of the investigation, which is an official death investigation. Upon completion of that phase, the Firestone Police Department will turn the matter over to the Weld County District Attorney's Office.

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ABOUT THE FREDERICK-FIRESTONE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

The Frederick-Firestone Fire Protection District (FFFPD) is governed by an elected Citizen Board of Directors and provides fire suppression, emergency medical, specialized rescue, and fire protection, prevention and education services to residents and businesses within the Town of Frederick, the Town of Firestone and unincorporated portions of Weld County, Colorado. For more information about the Frederick-Firestone Fire Protection District, please contact FFFPD Community Outreach Specialist Summer Campos at [REDACTED] or by email at [REDACTED]. The Frederick-Firestone Fire Protection District Business and Education Center is located at 8426 Kosmerl Place, in Frederick, Colo.