

Central Valley Fire District Incident Information



Date:	May 16, 2021	Adults Injured:	None				
Time Call Received:	03:36	Minors Injured:	None				
Incident Type:	Structure Fire	Firefighters Injured:	None				
Address/Location:	6399 Jackrabbit Ln	Civilians Rescued:	None				
Incident Number:	2021-769	Civilian Fatalities:	None				
Occupancy Name:	Rocky Mtn Car Wash	Animal Injury/Fatality:	None				
Occupancy / # Units	Commercial	Initial Response Time:	7 minutes				
1 st In Company:	CVFD Units	Incident Control Time:	04:26				
Mutual Aid Depts:	4	Incident Duration:	4 hours				
Property Loss:	\$750,000	Total # Alarms:	1				
Property Saved:		Total # Personnel:	18				
Displaced/Evacuated:	None	Incident Commander:	Chief Ron Lindroth				
Origin:	Mechanical Room/Office area	Assisting Agencies:	See Below				
Cause:	Intentionally Set	Submitted by:	Fire Marshal Bruce Hennequin				
Engines	Ladder Trucks	Brush Engines	Support Squads	Ambulances	Water Tenders	Command Units	Investigators
3	1		1	1		2	1

At 0336 hours on May 17, 2021, Central Valley Fire District and mutual aid units were dispatched to a reported structure fire at a building under construction next to the Jackpot Casino at 6455 Jackrabbit Lane. Belgrade Police units also responded and arrived, reporting that the car wash structure was 'fully engulfed' in flames.

CVFD Engine 5-1 arrived on scene, updated dispatch of fire conditions and initiated fire attack operations. Additional units involved in the incident included CVFD Engines 5-2, 5-3, Squad 5-1, Command 5-1 and Command 5-3, Bozeman Fire Truck 3, an AMR ambulance, and the Belgrade Police Department. The fire was controlled at 04:26 hours.

The structure was a multi-bay car wash under construction. While the primary construction type was non-combustible concrete walls, the concrete forms were a plastic product and the roof structure was of combustible wood construction. The fire originated in the area that is designated on construction plans as the mechanical room and office areas. The building did not have any doors or windows installed and the bay areas were open on both ends. The structure had three bays designed as automatic car wash areas, a center area mechanical room/office area and six bays for manual vehicle washing. The fire originated in a stack of boxes of plastic plumbing pipe on the south side of the mechanical room. The fire traveled from the boxes, up the walls via the plastic concrete forms and into the combustible roof structure. The combustible roof structure then burned from the center to each, transferring fire throughout all the wash bay areas when the burning wood fell into those areas.

Evidence collected indicated that an unknown individual entered the mechanical room area near the boxes, ignited a fire in this area and fled the area through the same opening in the structure. The area of fire origin has been determined while the specific cause remains under investigation. The fire incident is being investigated as an intentionally set fire/arson. The investigation is being conducted by Central Valley Fire District and the Belgrade Police Department Criminal Investigations Division. Anyone with information regarding this incident is encouraged to contact the investigating agencies listed. Public cooperation is appreciated.

Questions or requests for information can be directed to Fire Marshal Bruce Hennequin at 406-388-3644, via email at bhennequin@centralvalleyfire.com or the Belgrade Police Department at 406-388-4262.