



ARIZONA FIRE & MEDICAL AUTHORITY

Protecting life and property and enhancing the well-being of all those we serve

Incident: #24-322854

Date: Saturday July 27, 2024

Time: 0519 hours

Incident: Commercial Structure Fire

Location: 41625 W. Indian School Rd. Tonopah, AZ 85354

Weather: Clear skies, no wind detected, about 100 degrees

Property Owners:

- Hickman Family Egg Farms

Residents:

- Not applicable

Insurance:

- Multiple providers share the insurance burden.

Incident:

1. On Saturday July 27, 2024, at approximately 0519 hours, the Arizona Fire & Medical Authority (AFMA) responded to a reported "Structure Fire" at 41625 W. Indian School Rd. Tonopah, AZ 85354
2. The first arriving unit reported "Fully involved" structure fire, and called for a full first alarm response
3. I self-dispatched due to it being a commercial fire at approximately 0545 hours, arriving approximately 0625 hours.
4. I reported to the Incident Commander, and then went to interviews with employees.
5. The first employee I interviewed was Sam Rushing (951) 427-4215.
6. Sam is a feed delivery driver who was feeding at House 10, two barn houses south of Barn 12, the fire building. Sam said he noticed smoke coming from House 12, about the 3rd floor on the left side of the building.
7. Sam stated he immediately called 9-1-1 to report the fire. Sam stated he did not see anyone else that morning around the time of the fire
8. Interviewed Jessica Morrison, Production Manager (480) 665-1294, who related that each floor has temperature sensors spread throughout the facility to monitor the facility to keep the chickens cool.
9. I requested the spacing of each thermostat, which was reported as in the same spot on each floor according to the information provided by Hickman Farms (*see attached*)
10. I interviewed Paul Yeatts (623) 694-5190, Special Projects Manager, regarding video camera coverage. Paul pointed to a camera on the southern warehouse structure and stated it wouldn't be good enough to see the affected building(s).

18818 N. Spanish Garden Drive, Sun City West, AZ 85375 • P (623) 544-5400 • F (623) 544-5455 • www.afma.az.gov
*The Arizona Fire & Medical Authority proudly serves the communities of Coldwater Ranch, Corte Bella, Cross River,
Dos Rios, Marisol Ranch, Pinnacle Peak County Island, Rancho Cabrillo, Rancho Silverado,
Rio Sierra, Sun City West, Sundero, Sun Lakes, and Wittmann*



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11. I released the deputies on scene, not seeing anything that indicated suspicious activities that would require a law-enforcement standby to secure the scene.
12. I told Paul Yeatts, Jessica Morrison, and Clint Hickman that I didn't want anyone to enter the structure until I returned to investigate the scene. This information was to be related to any personnel that might need to enter the structure.
13. I left the scene after releasing the deputies on scene.
14. I returned on Monday July 29, 2024, at 0530 hours.
15. I entered the structure and was met with thousands of dead chickens across the facility.
16. The steel structure has completely failed and was resting on the internal structural members, cage apparatus and chicken walkways.
17. I was in the process of taking pictures when the building made a loud creaking sound and thump that made me concerned enough to exit the structure for safety reasons.
18. I went to the main office area to collect printouts for the thermostat reports to assist in determining the reaction of each from midnight until the system went off-line due to the fire.
19. I met with Kevin Hanger, Corporate Council, who assisted me with my records requests.
20. Kevin brought in the insurance investigators
21. The investigators stated they will await a structural engineer to determine if the facility is safe enough to enter to complete the necessary investigation.

Fire Loss estimate:

- \$ 11,000,000.00 Value estimate - structure
- \$ 14,000,000.00 Value Including contents
- \$ 28,000,000.00 Saved estimate (*Exposures protected*)

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas O'Donohue, Fire Investigator
Arizona Fire & Medical Authority