

19



U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20207

August 28, 1996

4036
TENSER

Mr. Jason Hoar
Ralph Hoar & Associates
1001 North Highland Street, Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22201

Re: FOIA Request S607068: Reports 960328CWE5027 and 960502CWE7103

Dear Mr. Hoar:

Thank you for your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request seeking information from the Commission. The records from the Commission files responsive to your request have been processed and copies are enclosed.

The enclosed records constitute two Epidemiologic Investigation Reports with the underlying and supporting documentation. The Commission has received this information from its formal investigation systems. Through these systems the Commission hopes to learn when specific products are associated with illness, injury or death. The Commission believes that it has taken reasonable steps to assure the accuracy of this information. While conducting the interviews for the investigation reports, Commission staff or contractors have spoken with the individuals involved or with others who witnessed or are familiar with the incidents. Where possible, Commission staff have examined the products reportedly involved in the incidents. Although the Commission has investigated the incidents described in the investigation reports, the Commission has not necessarily determined the cause of the incidents.

You will note that in the documents disclosed information that could identify injured parties and persons treating them has been deleted, because section 25(c) of the Consumer Product Safety Act, 15 U.S.C. § 2074(c)(1), prohibits such disclosures without the consent of those individuals. In some cases the parties have denied consent or consent has not otherwise been obtained.

Mr. Jason Hoar
Page 2

Processing this request, performing the file searches and preparing the information, cost the Commission \$60.00. In this instance, we have decided to waive all of the charges. Thank you for your interest in consumer product safety. Should you have any questions, contact us by letter, facsimile (301) 504-0127 or telephone (301) 504-0785.

Sincerely,

Todd A. Stevenson
Deputy Secretary and
Freedom of Information Officer
Office of the Secretary

Enclosures

1. CASE NO. 960328CWE5027		2. INVESTIGATOR'S ID [8][2][3][2]		3. OFFICE CODE [8][7][0]		EPIDEMIOLOGIC INVESTIGATION REPORT	
4. DATE OF INCIDENT YR MO DAY [9][6][0][2][0][9]		5. DATE INVESTIGATION INITIATED		YR MO DAY [9][6][0][4][1][8]			
6. SYNOPSIS OF INCIDENT OR COMPLAINT The bulb in a halogen lamp exploded during normal use of the lamp. The exploding bulb broke the shield surrounding the bulb and scattered hot fragments of metal and glass into the room. The hot fragments burned the rug and ignited a chair. The owner was in the room and confined the fire to the point of origin. There were no injuries associated with the event.							
7. LOCATION (<i>Home, school, etc.</i>) home, interior		8. CITY [1][0] Portland		9. STATE Oregon			
10A. FIRST PRODUCT halogen lamp		[4][0][3][6]		11A. TRADE/BRAND NAME, MODEL NUMBER, MANUFACTURER & ADDRESS MFR.: Tensor corp., Chelsea, MA 02150 Model: LT609A			
10B. SECOND PRODUCT Chair		[4][0][1][9]		11B. TRADE/BRAND NAME, MODEL NUMBER, MANUFACTURER & ADDRESS Brand: Lazy Boy			
12. AGE OF VICTIM no injury		13. SEX (<i>USE NUMERICAL CODE</i>) MALE - 1 FEMALE - 2 UNKNOWN- 3		14. DISPOSITION no injury		15. INJURY DIAGNOSIS no injury	
[9][9][9]		[9]		[0]		[7][0]	
16. BODY PART no injury		17. RESPONDENT(S) (<i>Mother, Friend</i>) owner		18. TYPE INVESTIGATION ON SITE - 1 TELEPHONE - 2 OTHER - 3		19. TIME SPENT [][6].[0]	
[9][9]		[1]		[1]			
20. ATTACHMENTS [9] photos, diagram, instructions		21. CASE SOURCE [0][7] consumer F9635025A		22. REVIEWED BY YR MO DAY [8][1][0][1] [9][6][0][4][3][0]			
23. PERMISSION TO DISCLOSE NAMES (<i>NON-NEISS CASES ONLY</i>) CPSC MAY DISCLOSE MY NAME [] CPSC MAY NOT DISCLOSE MY NAME [x]							
24. NARRATIVE (<i>See Instructions on Page 2</i>) The respondent was the owner of the lamp.				25. REGIONAL OFFICE DIRECTOR REVIEW DATE			

MFR/PRVLBR NOTIFIED
 No Comments made
 Comments attached
 Excisions/Revisions
 Firm has not requested
 further notice

(USE ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY)

960328CWE5027

Pre-Event

The event occurred in a single family home in an urban neighborhood. The home was constructed in 1938 with a lath and plaster interior. The home is well maintained and was in excellent condition. The home is owned and occupied by an adult married couple.

The husband said that he purchased the first halogen floor lamp new at a department store during August 1995. He said that the first lamp failed during mid-November 1995. He said that the variable switch stopped working. He said that he returned the lamp to the retailer and received an identical replacement. He said that the variable switch on the replacement lamp stopped working during mid-December 1995. He said that the switches simply stopped working and there was no apparent hazard with the failures.

The husband said that he returned the second lamp to the retailer and received a replacement lamp. He said that the replacement lamp was similar to the first two lamps except the control switch was a simple on/off switch instead of a variable switch.

The husband said that he assembled the lamp according to the directions provided by the manufacturer. He said that he read the warnings about the halogen bulb. He said that he took extra care not to touch the bulb. He said that he wore rubber gloves and used the foam protective sleeve that the manufacturer provided for installing the bulb.

The husband said that he used the replacement lamp almost every day during the evening in their living room. He said that the lamp was turned on at approximately 5 or 6 p.m. and turned off between 10 and 11 p.m. He said that the lamp operated without interruption during most evenings. He said that there was 27 inches clearance between the top of the lamp and the plaster ceiling. He said that the lamp was not damaged ; repaired or altered before the event. He said that there were no problems with the operation of the lamp prior to the event.

Event

The husband said that he turned the lamp on at approximately 5:00 p.m. during the evening of the event. He said that the event occurred at approximately 7:30 p.m. The husband said that he was in the living room and happened to be standing a few feet away from the lamp. He said that the bulb suddenly started to glow brighter than normal. He said that the bulb suddenly exploded without warning.

960328CWE5027

~~960328CWE5027~~

The husband said that the exploding bulb shattered the protective shield and scattered fragments of hot metal and glass around the room. He said that he was not struck by any fragments. He said that fragments burned holes in the carpet and ignited the seat of a chair near the lamp. He said that he moved around the room stomping on the carpet with his shoes. He said that the chair cushion just started to flame and he extinguished the fire by patting the flames with his hands.

Post Event

The husband said that there were no injuries associated with the event. He expressed concern that a person standing near the lamp could have been injured. He reported the event to the nearest CPSC regional office.

The home was visited and the husband was interviewed as part of this investigation. Photographs and a diagram of the scene are attached to this report as exhibits. The lamp was collected as a sample and submitted to CCA as a sample under collection report 96-860-5320.

Product Identification

Manufacturer: Tensor Corporation
100 Justin Drive
Chelsea, MA 02150

Model: LT609N

SKU Number: 9792102

UL Issue Number: BF38166

Bulb Specification: 500 Watt type J

The product identification was obtained from the lamp label. The lamp is a free standing floor lamp with a concave reflector that points toward the ceiling. The lamp is approximately 70.5 inches tall. Photographs of the lamp and a copy of the instructions are attached to this report as exhibits. The lamp was collected as a sample and submitted to CCA under sample collection report 96-860-5320.

Standards Information

The lamp is subject to voluntary standards. The lamp bears

960328CWE5087

~~_____~~
an Underwriter's Laboratories label with UL Issue Number BF
38166.

Attachments

Exhibit # 1: Diagram

Exhibit # 2: Instructions

Exhibit # 3: Labels

Exhibit # 4: Photographs

TC-21

APR 11 1996

SECT 04 1996

F96 35 25 A

96 0328CWE5 27

March 16, 1996

Safety Commission
600 Harrison St
Room 245
San Francisco, CA 94107-1370

Dear Sirs:

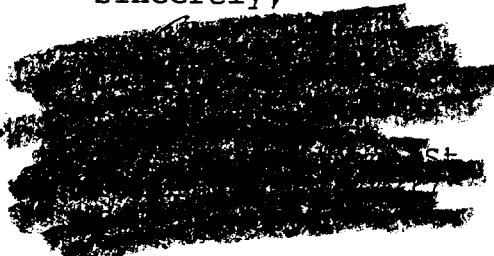
I am writing to alert you to what I consider a hazardous product. It is a halogen floor lamp model # LT609A put out by Tensor Corporation, Chelsea, MA 02150. Their phone is 1-800-USA-LAMP.

On February 9, 1996 the bulb in my lamp exploded. The thick glass covering over the lamp was not adequate. It broke into several pieces which were thrown over my living room floor burning holes in the carpet and setting fire to a chair nearby. If I had been away from home with the lamp still on the house would no doubt have burned.

Fortunately, I was about three feet away and was able to extinguish the flame on the chair. I was not hit but that could have happened.

If this happened once it could happen again. I never touched the halogen bulb with my bare hands when inserting it into the lamp. Why it exploded I do not know but the protective shield is a hazard since it went to pieces with it.

Sincerely,



JUN 7 1996

**EPIDEMIOLOGIC
INVESTIGATION
REPORT**

1. CASE NO. 960502CWE7103		2. INVESTIGATOR'S ID [8198]		3. OFFICE CODE [860]	
4. DATE OF INCIDENT YR MO DAY 960421		5. DATE INVESTIGATION INITIATED		YR MO DAY 960501	
6. SYNOPSIS OF INCIDENT OR COMPLAINT This investigation involves a residential fire that started from a halogen lamp's bulb. According to the fire department, the bulb blew during use. A piece or pieces of the blown glass made contact with a recliner chair causing it to ignite starting a fire. No injuries were sustained. Contents and structure loss were estimated at \$25,000.00.					
7. LOCATION (Home, school, etc.) Home 10		8. CITY El Paso		9. STATE Texas--TX	
10A. FIRST PRODUCT Halogen Floor Lamp 4036		11A. TRADE/BRAND NAME, MODEL NUMBER, MANUFACTURER & ADDRESS Tensor, LT609N			
10B. SECOND PRODUCT Bulb 0627		11B. TRADE/BRAND NAME, MODEL NUMBER, MANUFACTURER & ADDRESS None			
12. AGE OF VICTIM 000		13. SEX (USE NUMERICAL CODE) MALE - 1 FEMALE - 2 0 UNKNOWN - 3		14. DISPOSITION No injury 0	
15. INJURY DIAGNOSIS No injury 99		16. BODY PART No injury 99		17. RESPONDENT(S) (Mother, Friend) Fire Dept. 03	
18. TYPE INVESTIGATION ON SITE - 1 TELEPHONE - 2 OTHER - 3 3		19. TIME SPENT 07:0		20. ATTACHMENTS Multi 9	
21. CASE SOURCE Fire Department 01		22. REVIEWED BY 8257		YR MO DAY 960530	
23. PERMISSION TO DISCLOSE NAMES (NON-NEISS CASES ONLY) CPSC MAY DISCLOSE MY NAME () CPSC MAY NOT DISCLOSE MY NAME [x]					
24. NARRATIVE (See Instructions on Page 2) Narrative report and attachments are attached.				25. REGIONAL OFFICE DIRECTOR REVIEW DATE	

MFR/PRVLBR NOTIFIED
 No Comments made
 Comments attached
 Excisions/Revisions
 Firm has not requested further notice

JUN 7 1996

FIELD ACTIVITY COVERSHEET

1. REGION/STATE FOWR-TX	2. OPERATION (Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> Inspection <input type="checkbox"/> Establishment Visit <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone Contact <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Investigation <input type="checkbox"/> Other	3. DATE 05231996
		4. NUMBER (For RO Use) 960502CWE7103

C
6/7/96

5. ESTABLISHMENT
 Name Unknown
 Address
 City State Zip - Telephone

RELATED FIRM Parent Headquarters Subsidiary Other
 City State

7. PRODUCTS COVERED Halogen Floor Lamp	8. OTHER CONSUMER PRODUCTS n/a
---	-----------------------------------

9. ESTABLISHMENT TYPE <input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturer <input type="checkbox"/> Importer <input type="checkbox"/> Wholesaler <input type="checkbox"/> Own Label Distributor <input type="checkbox"/> Retailer <input type="checkbox"/> Repackage	10. ANNUAL PRODUCTION Product Covered Units Other Products Units
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11. I.S. BUSINESS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Received <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shipped	12. SAMPLES COLLECTED None	13. MIS CODE 32626	14. HOURS Activity 07 Travel 00
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15. REASON FOR ACTIVITY (Assignment Reference)
 Doc. # F9657015A and IDI 960502CWE7103

16. ANNOUNCED Rationale for Announced Inspection
 UNANNOUNCED

17. EMPLOYEE'S NAME JERUSA J. WALKER	TITLE Inv.	SIGNATURE <i>Jerusha J. Walker</i>
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18. (X) ENDORSEMENT REMARKS SUMMARY OTHER _____
 This investigation involves a residential fire that started from a halogen floor lamp's bulb. According to the fire department, the bulb blew during use. A piece or pieces of the blown glass made contact with a recliner chair causing it to ignite starting a fire. No injuries were sustained. Contents and structure loss were estimated at \$25,000.00.
 F/U: Referred to CCA

19. REVIEWER'S NAME CLAUDE E. TOLBERT	TITLE Supv. Inv.	SIGNATURE <i>C. E. Tolbert</i>
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20. REVIEW DATE 960530	21. DISTRIBUTION O: EHDS, cc: CCA, DAL File, cc: coversheet: CETolbert, LDBaxter
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PAGE 1

960502CWE7103

HALOGEN FLOOR LAMP

The information within this report was obtained from the investigating fire department report. Information was also obtained from the fire investigator during a telephone conversation. Photographs were taken of the scene. Copies were requested.

PRE-INCIDENT:

This investigation involves a house fire that occurred, Sunday, April 21, 1996, in a one story single family home. The time was approximately 9:35 P M. According to the report the owners of the home were not present. It was also said that the owners received the lamp as a gift.

INCIDENT:

The report says that neighbors across from the burning home called the fire department.

POST-INCIDENT:

When the fire department arrived on the scene, they found a one story structure on fire. The fire was extinguished. An examination was conducted to decide the cause of the fire. After an examination in daylight of the fire scene, several burned holes were found on the carpet. The report says that a piece of the glass was embedded, approximately one-half inch deep into the carpet's shag surface, all the way down to the weave, leaving a burned hole. The report also says pieces of extremely hot glass were noted on the floor. Their examination revealed that a J-type Halogen lamp light bulb had blown. A piece or pieces of hot glass contacted the extremely combustible surface (plastic stuffing) of the recliner. The left sided of the chair ignited and burned rapidly. The chair was removed to the outside. No injuries were sustained. Contents and structure loss were estimated at \$25,000.00.

PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION AND INFORMATION:

According to the fire department, the products involved in this incident are a Tensor-Halogen Floor Lamp and light bulb. The model number for the lamp is LT 609N. Serial number is SKU97920003-J265. The lamp used a bulb that had this type of rating: 500w and 120v.

960502CWE7103

HALOGEN FLOOR LAMP

The fire investigator says that the lamp's bulb exploded, because someone touched the bulb with their bare hand. He said this left oil and moisture from the person's hand on the bulb, causing it to explode. According to the instructions one must use a cloth when placing a new bulb in the lamp.

STANDARD INFORMATION:

According to the fire department investigator the lamp was subject to a UL Standard. The following was listed on the lamp: UL-BF 25102-China.

SAMPLE COLLECTED:

None

EXHIBITS:

1. A copy of the assignment request with incoming document-fire department incident report
2. Photographs-pending

RESPONDENT	PURPOSE OF CONTACT	RESULTS
Fire Department	scenario and product data	obtained



OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL
El Paso Fire Department
201 South Florence St.
El Paso, Texas 79901

WILLIAM A. WILCOX
Fire Marshal
543-6101

J. ALBERT ALVARADO
Ass't Fire Marshal
543-6102

LARRY C. PEREZ
Lt., Investigations
543-6103

ANDREW J. BROOKS
Lt., Code Enforcement
543-6107

ANTONIO M. SILVA
Lt., Public Ed/Hazmat
543-6104

FAX TRANSMITTAL

Date: 4/25/96

Number of Pages Being Transmitted: ~~4~~⁵ FAXED to: (214) 827-6241
(including this sheet)

TO: JESUS CHAIRAZ, CONSUMER PROTECTION

FROM: M. L. TORRES, INVESTIGATION

REGARDING: HALOGEN Lamps.

(915)

VOICE 543-6112 or

543-6190

EL PASO FIRE MARSHAL DIVISION FAX NUMBER: (915) 543-6168

NOTE: IF ANY OF THESE FAX TRANSMITTALS ARE ILLEGIBLE OR YOU DO NOT RECEIVE THE SAME NUMBER OF PAGES AS STATED ABOVE, PLEASE CONTACT US IMMEDIATELY AT: (915) 543-6190.

TASK# 960502CWE7103
ATTACHMENT#
PRODUCT# Halogen floor lamp with bulb

F9657015A
960502CWE7103
Sub 15


**EL PASO FIRE MARSHAL DIVISION
COMPLAINT REPORT**

FD# 96-125
FD#

Location of Occurrence					
When Occurred	Month 04	Day 21	Year 96	Day of Week Sunday	Time of Day 2135
Name of Complainant		Address		Hm/Ph	Bus/Ph
Name of Owner		Address		Hm/Ph	Bus/Ph
Name of Occupant		Address		Hm/Ph	Bus/Ph
Type of Incident House fire/Accidental			Photos yes ✓	Prints	Evidence
Lab. Name	Vehicle Involved		Year	Make	Model
	EDC		1996	TENSOR	LT609N
Style	Color	State & License #		Serial/VIN #	Remarks
	BLACK	SKU 979 20003			UL-BF 25102 China
Insurance Information					Estimated Loss
State Farm Insurance					25,000*****

I responded to the address of occurrence reference a house fire. Upon arrival I met with the incident commander and fire companies at the scene. I photographed the scene from starting at the outside and entered through the front entry. I photographed each individual room and the bathroom. No signs of forcible entry were found and the incident commander stated that the OW/CO had provided them with a key to gain entry. I found a double recliner chair outside burned mostly on it's right side where only partial pieces of the wood frame were left. Upon further investigation, helped by F913, R. Kiesel, it was discovered that a 500W halogen floor lamp's bulb had blown, scattering around pieces of extremely hot glass. This was evident in a piece found embedded in approximately a 1/2 inch deep into the carpet's shag surface, all the way down to the weave, leaving a burned hole. Other assorted sized, similarly burned spots were found. The extremely combustible surface (plastic stuffing) of the recliner on the left side ignited, and rapidly burned.

TASK# 960502CWE7103
 ACT-DATE 1
 PRODUCT: Halogen Floor Lamp Bulb

This Case Is Declared To Be	Investigator(s): M. L. Torres
<input type="checkbox"/> Unfounded	Signature: 
<input type="checkbox"/> Cleared by Arrest	Date: 04/23/96
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exceptionally Cleared	
<input type="checkbox"/> Inactive (Not Cleared)	

City: RMS Term: L202 User: TORRESMAF 23-Apr-96 04:10 PM Page 3

Inquiry for Incident No 96-016315 Exposure No 000

Dispatched: 042196 21:36:52 Enroute: 042196 21:37:58 At Scene: 042196 21:40:29
Dep Scene: : : Arrv Hos: : : Available: 042196 23:31:26
In Quarters: 042196 23:48:35 Recovrd: : : Totl Time: 2:10:37
Total Man Hours 003.528 (003) Total Recovery Time 0.000 Total Time 3.528

Personnel Responding

0247481QUINTANA CARLOS J [FF] 1:10:37 1.17610 On Duty
0832281FLORES ROBERTO [FST] 1:10:37 1.17610 On Duty
7431211YOUNGER JAMES M [CAPT] 1:10:37 1.17610 On Duty

Company No R4

Company: R4 -C Action Taken: 1 Agency: EP
Dispatched: 042196 21:36:51 Enroute: 042196 21:37:33 At Scene: 042196 21:43:43
Dep Scene: 042196 23:22:01 Arrv Hos: : : Available: 042196 23:22:01
In Quarters: : : Recovrd: : : Totl Time: 1:44:28
Total Man Hours 003.482 (002) Total Recovery Time 0.000 Total Time 3.482

Personnel Responding

1166991WOLF KRIS D [FST] 1:44:28 1.74110 On Duty
5632031SNYDER WAYNE E [CAPT] 1:44:28 1.74110 On Duty

Equipment used for Company L24

WATER FROM - Hydrant: Tank: Other: Total: 0
of SCBA: 4 # of Bottles: 4 # of Sm Ejectors: 1 # of Covers:

Table with columns: Type, Feet Lines, Type, Qty, Description, Qty/Feet. Includes handwritten task # 960502CWB 7103 and attachment # 1.

Equipment used for Company P24

WATER FROM - Hydrant: Tank: Other: Total: 0
of SCBA: 3 # of Bottles: 3 # of Sm Ejectors: # of Covers:

Table with columns: Type, Feet Lines, Type, Qty, Description, Qty/Feet. Includes handwritten product name.

Equipment used for Company R4

WATER FROM - Hydrant: Tank: Other: Total: 0
of SCBA: 1 # of Bottles: 1 # of Sm Ejectors: # of Covers:

Table with columns: Type, Feet Lines, Type, Qty, Description, Qty/Feet. Includes AIMMON AIM Monitor.

Vehicle/Equipment Involved

Vehicle No 001

Vehicle/Equip #: 001 Vehicle/Equip Type: 500W, HALOGEN LAMP
Involvement: 00 Line V (Equip Involved) Make: TENSOR
Estimated Value: 40 Model: LT609N
Estimated Loss: 40 Color: BLACK
Registered Owner: SAC Year: 00
Address: SAA License: St:
City: EL PASO Serial/VIN: SKU97920003
State: TX Zip: 79936- Voltage: 120V. 500W

City: RMS Term: L202 User: TORRESMAF 23-Apr-96 04:10 PM Page 4

Inquiry for Incident No 96-016315 Exposure No 000

Transport Type: ICC/DOT Permit #: 000000000 Driver's License: 0000000000000 St: TX

NARRATIVE

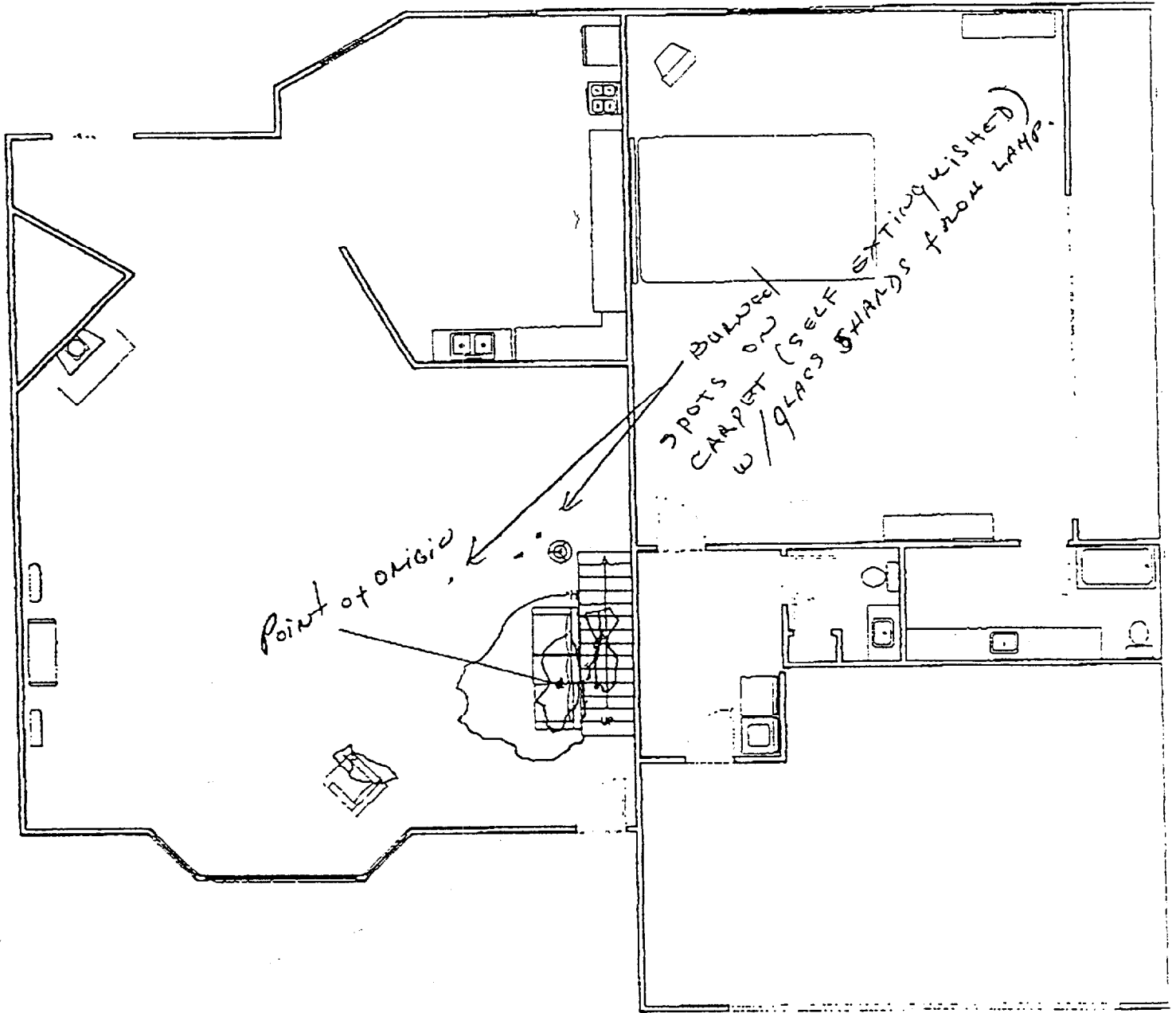
Author: CAD IC data from CAD page 001 on 04/22/96 at 0003
Reporting Party: [REDACTED]
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

Author: TORRESMAF NI NATURE OF INCID page 001 on 04/23/96 at 1604
AFTER EXAMINATION IN DAYLIGHT OF THE FIRE SCENE, SEVERAL BURNED HOLES WERE FOUND ON THE CARPET. ABOUT THE LIVING ROOM WHERE PIECES OF EXTREMELY HOT GLASS HAD FALLEN, FROM A BLOWING J-TYPE, SOOW HALOGEN LAMP LIGHT ZULB. A PIECE OR PIECES OF HOT GALSS FELL ON THE STUFFED RECLINER, IGNITING IT. THIS CASE IS EXCEPTIONALLY CLEARED, AND THE INFORMATION WILL BE FORWARDED TO THE CONSUMER PROTECTION AGENCY IN ALBUQUERQUE.

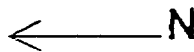
Incident Follow-up

#	Type of Follow-Up	By	Status	Date	Comment
001	IAT Attention Required	FMD	IAT Attention Re	042296	ATTEN.UNIT918

TASK# 960502 CWE 7103
ATTACHMENT# 1
PRODUCT: Halogen Floor Lamp & Bulbs



96-125 04/21/96
 1732 Mitchell Jones
 M.L. Torres, Investigator
 NOT TO SCALE



TASK# 960502CWC7103
 ATTACHMENT# 1
 PRODUCED BY Holger Rosemeier