

## *2 Alarm Fire...*

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 07, 2007 5:17 AM

**Subject:** Fwd: Markets West - news

### *2 Alarm Fire...*

Family & friends:

It's been a very difficult several days for the Hutchinson family. We've had our very own Malibu Fire/Katrina event rolled in to one. The Markets West Office Furniture Building is destroyed by fire early Sunday morning. NO ONE was hurt. At this time appears to be caused by a downed power-line. A month or so this also occurred during the day however APS [AZ Pub Service] was called and it was repaired.(?) Yesterday soaked paperwork relating to income tax, payroll and such were retrieved from my mom's reception desk located closest to the front door. Unfortunately Bill had his back-up computer in his burnt to the very ground back office. The fire started in the back where the alley utility lines are located. Angela was there Sunday to photo record the aftermath. Yesterday the 2 fire crews separately stopped by to offer comfort all and review their work. We hope to get an official report soon. Fortunately no lives were lost and the separate warehouse building south of the main building was not affected. Monday Bill and crew cleared out a room to begin setting up a working office all calls to 602 275-2226 are transferred to Frank's cell phone until Quest can set up phones at the whse.. Ironically a business that sells desks is using a folding table to get restarted. I spoke to my mom Saturday just prior to their leaving the store 4 PM. ***To believe no one knew what would ensue 10 hours later is numbing.*** To believe we all had lunch their Thursday...the nicest accomidating kitched of any small business in town is now a total black void. Another bit of irony: the key to my mom's 'private toilet' was retrieved from her reception area. Believe this -- the Purel pump dispenser sanitizer [all germs now baked out now] on my mom's desk was partially melted but still worked as it came in handy as we retrieved soot laden items...her small desk TV was partially melted but left for the dump. I recall bidding my mom farewell Thursday as she was entrenched watching a 'cooking' show last Thursday -- well it's all cooked now as we put a recipe together in how to move forward...

Love to all,

Joey

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 07, 2007 6:50 AM

**Subject:** Power lines fall on furniture business, burn it down

## **Power lines fall on furniture business, burn it down**

**Lindsey Collom**

The Arizona Republic

Mar. 6, 2007 08:54 PM

Felled power lines were blamed Tuesday for a fire that consumed an office-furniture business near 40th Avenue and Washington Street.

## *2 Alarm Fire...*

Phoenix Fire Department investigators determined that wind caused the power lines to short and fall onto Markets West Office Furniture early Sunday morning. Fire Captain Lynn Smith said the live wires sparked a blaze that left \$385,000 worth of destruction in its wake.

It wasn't the first time a power line fell onto the Markets West property, according to owner Bill Hutchinson. He pointed to several wooden pallets intertwined with wire that leaned against the wall of his business Tuesday. Hutchinson said the wires were remnants from when the first line fell about six weeks ago. "(It made) a large noise, like a bomb," he said. "It's just the brightest thing you've ever seen."

There wasn't a fire then, and Arizona Public Service Co. crews repaired the line, he said. They were back early Sunday when he arrived to survey the damage at his business.

APS spokesman Rufus Coleman said Tuesday that the fire was still under investigation and "we're working with all of the appropriate authorities to determine the root cause."

Meanwhile, blackened debris clutters what used to be a 6,000-square-foot showroom filled with new and custom-built office furniture. Hutchinson said he just wants to know how it got that way.

"Twenty seven years in the business and what's left is ashes," he said.