



Saint Paul Fire Department  
645 Randolph Avenue  
Saint Paul, MN 55102  
(651) 224-7811

## Investigation Report

### Case

#### Case Details

|                            |                           |                              |            |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------|
| SPFD210209005551           | Sampson, Steven           | Closed                       | 21-027-572 |
| Case Number                | Lead Investigator         | Status                       | Name       |
| Confidential               | Accidental                | Lightning                    |            |
| Confidentiality            | Disposition               | Fire Cause                   |            |
| 02/09/2021                 | 15:17                     |                              |            |
| Start Date                 | Start Time                | End Date                     | End Time   |
| Saint Paul Fire Department |                           | Saint Paul Police Department |            |
| Primary Fire Department    | Secondary Fire Department | Law Enforcement              |            |

## Case Narrative

Saint Paul Police Department were called to investigate a possible break-in at a residence. SPPD officers (SPPD SQ#353) arrived and requested St Paul Fire Department's fire investigation unit with reports of an extinguished fire in the basement. House appears on the vacant / condemned list of addresses per PD. PD also reports that neighbors have made complaints that a couple and their child have been living in the basement of the residence. PD made contact with the owners daughter who reported that her parents who are the owners are out of town; that she stopped there today for the first time in approximately 7 days and discovered that the front window had been broken and that a side door had appeared to be forced. SPPD officers confirmed that the door on side bravo appeared forced and was slightly ajar upon their arrival. Firefighters arrived and began investigations and found evidence of a previous fire in the basement with smoke and soot damage to all three levels of the house and signs of significant heat on the first floor as indicated by melted ceiling fan blades. House and area of origin was monitored for VOCs and no traces were picked up. There was a double Halogen stand work light that was plugged in the immediate area that cannot be ruled out as a possible ignition source. There was a box of wood-stick matches near the area of origin as well. No other competent ignition sources noted throughout the investigation. Further investigation also showed signs of current renovation throughout the house. A pipe had also burst and ice could be seen on both the first floor interior and exterior on side bravo. There was a mattress located in the basement near the area of origin, however, no other indications of current occupancy noted. Firefighters concluded the investigation, contacted Xcel to secure utilities, submitted an Inspection Request form 4 and made contact with the owner's daughter. Command was terminated and the scene was released to SPPD whom provided security until the arrival of the daughter.

### Case Background

### Case Synopsis

### Investigation Comments

# Fire

## Ignition Sequence

|           |  |  |  |
|-----------|--|--|--|
| Lightning | Common room, den,<br>family room, living<br>room, lounge |  |  |
|-----------|--|--|--|

Fire Cause

Area of Origin

Equipment Power Source

Equipment Portability

Area of Origin Comments

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Radiated or conducted heat from operating equipment | Fabric, fiber, cotton, blends, rayon, wool |
|---|--|

Heat Source

Material Ignited

|                                     |  |  |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Halogen lighting fixture or<br>lamp |  |  |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|

Equipment Involved In  
Ignition

Equipment Make

Equipment Model

Equipment Serial Number

## Fire and Smoke Spread Information

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Confined to room of origin |  |
|----------------------------|--|

Fire Spread Material

Fire Spread Avenue

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  |  |
|--|--|

Smoke Spread Material

Smoke Spread Avenue

|  |
|--|
|  |
|--|

Fire Comments

## Weather

|  |  |    |     |
|--|--|----|-----|
|  |  | 14 | WSW |
|--|--|----|-----|

Visibility

Relative Humidity (%)

Wind Speed (Mph)

Wind Direction

|     |   |    |  |
|-----|---|----|--|
| 9.0 | 0 | No |  |
|-----|---|----|--|

Temperature (Fahrenheit)

Precipitation

Lightning

Information Obtained  
From Weather

|       |
|-------|
| Sunny |
|-------|

Weather Comments

# Property Details (1 of 1)

## Property

|     |
|-----|
| N/A |
|-----|

Name

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| 1006 3rd Street East |  |
|----------------------|--|

Address

Apt/Suite/Room

|            |               |           |       |
|------------|---------------|-----------|-------|
| Saint Paul | Ramsey County | Minnesota | 55106 |
|------------|---------------|-----------|-------|

City

County

State

Postal Code

|              |            |             |
|--------------|------------|-------------|
| \$203,000.00 | \$1,500.00 | \$15,000.00 |
|--------------|------------|-------------|

Pre Fire Value

Content Loss Value

Structure Loss Value

Property Description

## Area

|           |       |  |
|-----------|-------|--|
| Structure | Urban |  |
|-----------|-------|--|

Area Type

Area Description

Area Quality

## Structure

|                        |        |
|------------------------|--------|
| 1 or 2 family dwelling | Vacant |
|------------------------|--------|

Property Use

Structure Occupancy

|  |     |                    |
|--|-----|--------------------|
|  | Yes | Operating Properly |
|--|-----|--------------------|

Alarm Type

Smoke Detector Present

Smoke Detector Performance

|      |  |
|------|--|
| None |  |
|------|--|

Sprinkler Standpipes

Sprinkler Standpipes Performance

|    |  |    |   |  |
|----|--|----|---|--|
| 30 |  | 30 | 2 |  |
|----|--|----|---|--|

Structure Length (Ft)

Structure Height (Ft)

Structure Width (Ft)

Number Of Stories

Number Of Units

|            |        |  |
|------------|--------|--|
| Wood Frame | Type V |  |
|------------|--------|--|

Construction Type

Structure Type

Structure Material

|          |      |         |         |
|----------|------|---------|---------|
| Basement | Wood | Pitched | Asphalt |
|----------|------|---------|---------|

Foundation

Exterior Covering

Roof Type

Roof Material

Examination of the basement found fire heat and smoke damage in a basement room being used as a bedroom. A mattress was on the floor and even though the owner had stated the home was vacant, clothes on the floor and in the room indicated the home had been occupied. The area of greatest fire damage was adjacent a halogen light fixture. Fire and heat patterns indicate heat from the lamp had ignited ordinary combustible material, most likely fabric or paper and extended to an ottoman in close proximity. The light was plugged in and two of the breakers tripped in the electrical panel indicate basement outlets.

Investigation of the main floor found minor smoke that was dissipating with natural ventilation.

Observation of the second floor found water damage from a burst pipe but no sign of fire, heat or smoke damage.

### Interior Exam

A 360 of the exterior of the property found a broken window on the main floor and a door partially opened. There was light smoke staining on some main floor windows and soot deposit visible on basement windows. The gas meter had been locked out by Xcel and gas had been shut off to the house prior to the fire.

### Exterior Exam

## Alarm and Security Services

|      |     |  |  |
|------|-----|--|--|
| None | Yes |  |  |
|------|-----|--|--|

Sprinkler Standpipes

Smoke Detectors Present

Smoke Detector Locations

Fire Suppression

|         |         |  |
|---------|---------|--|
| Unknown | Unknown |  |
|---------|---------|--|

Doors

Windows

Other Entrances

Alarm Protection/Security Comments

# Witness Statement (1 of 1)

## Witness Statement

|         |       |  |
|---------|-------|--|
| Quevada | Erica |  |
|---------|-------|--|

Last Name

First Name

Middle Name

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| Owner |  |
|-------|--|

Type

Employer

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|

Interviewed Date

Interviewed By

Interviewed By Other

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 1006 3rd st E |  |
|---------------|--|

Street 1

Street 2

|            |           |       |
|------------|-----------|-------|
| Saint Paul | Minnesota | 55106 |
|------------|-----------|-------|

City

State

PostalCode

|                    |  |  |
|--------------------|--|--|
| Hispanic or Latino |  |  |
|--------------------|--|--|

Race

Date of Birth

Driver's Liscense Number

|  |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Saw broken window and door cracked open this AM.</li><li>- House is vacant, my parents own it.</li><li>-My brother, his partner and their child have been staying at the house.</li><li>-I don't know when they were their last.</li><li>-I saw the damage and called 9-1-1.</li></ul> |
|--|

Witness Statement Comments

# Conclusion

## Case Conclusion

After examination of the fire scene, observation of fire patterns of both movement and intensity, as well as statements made by the owner's daughter to SPPD it is my opinion the area of origin was in the basement. The first fuel/material ignited was most likely ordinary combustibles on the top of an ottoman-style piece of furniture. The ignition source was radiant heat from a halogen light. The oxidant was normal atmospheric air. The action that brought these items together was a halogen light being placed too close to ordinary combustible material. The classification of fire cause is accidental. This concludes my investigation and report.

## Signature

Sampson, Steven

Lead Investigator

Signature

Date Submitted

## Document Attachment List

Photo Log