



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

## Investigation Report

### Case

#### Case Details

SPFD220406014461	Smith, Michael	Closed	N/A
Case Number	Lead Investigator	Status	Name
Confidential	Accidental	Electrical System	
Confidentiality	Disposition	Fire Cause	
04/06/2022	22:26		
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

The fire department was called to the report of a fire in a duplex residential home. Firefighters arrived and found smoke coming from a window and door on the rear North side. Firefighters evacuated the structure, extinguished the fire and conducted overhaul. Command was terminated and the scene was released.

Ladder 18 arrived and found smoke coming from the door and window from an upper unit. The door into the apartment was open but nobody was home. Resident downstairs reports that the resident upstairs was not home and her friends reported the smoke from the unit. Was unable to talk to anybody from upper unit.

#### Case Background

#### Case Synopsis

This report is based on presently known and available facts, data, and information.

#### Investigation Comments

# Fire

## Ignition Sequence

Electrical System	Cooking area, kitchen		
Fire Cause	Area of Origin	Equipment Power Source	Equipment Portability

Area of Origin Comments

Heat from powered equipment, other	Multiple types of material
Heat Source	Material Ignited

Equipment Involved In Ignition	Equipment Make	Equipment Model	Equipment Serial Number

## Fire and Smoke Spread Information

Confined to building of origin	
Fire Spread Material	Fire Spread Avenue

Smoke Spread Material	Smoke Spread Avenue

Fire Comments

## Weather

		18	west
Visibility	Relative Humidity (%)	Wind Speed (Mph)	Wind Direction

34.0	0.2	No	
Temperature (Fahrenheit)	Precipitation	Lightning	Information Obtained From Weather

light rain
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Weather Comments

# Property Details (1 of 1)

## Property

N/A

Name

733 Thomas Avenue North

Address

Apt/Suite/Room

Saint Paul

Ramsey County

Minnesota

55104

City

County

State

Postal Code

\$175,000.00

\$25,000.00

\$175,000.00

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		Occupied		
Property Use		Structure Occupancy		
	Unknown	Not Operating		
Alarm Type		Smoke Detector Present	Smoke Detector Performance	
None		Unknown		
Sprinkler Standpipes		Sprinkler Standpipes Performance		
60		35	2	
Structure Length (Ft)	Structure Height (Ft)	Structure Width (Ft)	Number Of Stories	Number Of Units
Wood Frame		Type V	StructureMaterial_Wood	
Construction Type		Structure Type	Structure Material	
Basement	Brick/Stone	Pitched	Asphalt	
Foundation	Exterior Covering	Roof Type	Roof Material	

Investigation of the second floor found heavy smoke, fire and heat damage. Fire patterns on the exterior of the door to the second-floor unit #2 indicate the door had been closed at the time of the fire. The fire started in the kitchen area adjacent the stove. Fire patterns indicate the fire extended upwards and outwards from the floor area adjacent the stove where the refrigerator had been. Rollover had occurred, smoke banked down to the midpoint of the walls and fire, heat and smoke damage extended to all adjacent rooms. Fire patterns on the refrigerator indicate the fire started at the base behind the refrigerator and extended upwards behind the refrigerator. The mechanical assembly and the interior of the refrigerator had been completely destroyed by fire.

Inspection of the attic space found light smoke throughout the attic. No extension of fire was visible.

Observation of the first floor found light smoke throughout. No fire damage was visible.

Examination of the basement found light smoke throughout. There were separate electrical panels for each floor. Fuses ten and five had burned out, the panel did not indicate the location they served. Sub panel #2 had two breakers tripped, 2nd floor kitchen and 2nd floor receptacles. All appliances in the basement appeared to be in working condition and were uninvolved with the fire.

## Interior Exam

The structure is a large two story house with brick exterior. The address side of the property faces south. There is a detached garage on the north side of the property with access to the alley.

Observation of the south side of the structure found light smoke coming from an open window for the attic space. There was soot and smoke staining on the interior of the second floor windows.

Examination of the west side of the structure found light smoke staining on the inside of the second floor windows and light smoke coming from the eaves. The electrical service for the structure was located on the west side of the structure near the north corner. There are two electrical meters for the structure. Both meters looked to be in good working order and were not involved with the fire.

Inspection of the north side of the structure found smoke and soot staining on the inside of the windows of the second floor.

Investigation of the east side of the structure was difficult because of bushes, an exposure, and a fence. The gas meters for the structure were on the east side near the south corner. Both meters appeared to be in good working order and were not involved with the fire.

# Witness Statement (1 of 2)

## Witness Statement

Brown	Karl	
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Last Name

First Name

Middle Name

Occupant	
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Type

Employer

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Interviewed Date

Interviewed By

Interviewed By Other

733 Thomas (lower)	
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Street 1

Street 2

Saint Paul	Minnesota	55104
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City

State

PostalCode

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Race

Date of Birth

Driver's License Number

- I was home at the time of the fire. - Upstairs residents friends knocked on our door and reported smoke from the door. - I do not know when the upstairs resident left. - I think her name is Emma Torrez.	- Upstairs resident was not home. - I called 9-1-1.
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Witness Statement Comments

## Witness Statement (2 of 2)

### Witness Statement

Chang	Inho	
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Last Name

First Name

Middle Name

Owner	
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Type

Employer

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Interviewed Date

Interviewed By

Interviewed By Other

733 Thomas	
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Street 1

Street 2

Saint Paul	Minnesota	55104
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City

State

PostalCode

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Race

Date of Birth

Driver's Liscense Number

- Owner of the duplex
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Witness Statement Comments

# Conclusion

## Case Conclusion

After examination of the fire scene, observation of fire patterns of both movement and intensity and interviews conducted, it is my opinion the fire began in the kitchen area. The area of origin was the refrigerator. The first fuel/material ignited was most likely electrical wiring or plastic from refrigerator. The ignition source was most likely heat from a mechanical or electrical failure. The oxidant was normal atmospheric air. The action that brought these items together was a malfunction within the appliance. The classification of fire cause is accidental. This concludes my investigation and report.

## Signature

Smith, Michael

Lead Investigator

Signature

Date Submitted

## Document Attachment List

Photo Log