



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

## Investigation Report

### Case

#### Case Details

SPFD210610023926	Bever, Thomas	Closed	N/A
Case Number	Lead Investigator	Status	Name
Confidential	Accidental	Electrical System	
Confidentiality	Disposition	Fire Cause	
06/10/2021	22:18		
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 large 2 story multi family dwelling. Firefighters arrived and found heavy smoke conditions coming from the roof line soffit area. SQ1 firefighters made sure the occupants were evacuated from the structure. SQ1 entered the structure from the Alpha side and advanced up the stairs to the second floor where the smoke was coming from. SQ1 forced the door to the apartment and extinguished the fire. The fire was the heaviest in the living room space and extended into the ceiling of the entire second floor and showed heavy charring on the legacy balloon frame construction. The living space where the fire began had a large amount of collectible toys and memorabilia. Firefighters used salvage tarps to cover the occupant's personal property. Firefighters also relocated some items packed away in boxes that were on the floor to protect them. After salvage operations and the fire investigation were complete, firefighters conducted overhaul. Command was terminated and the scene was released.

#### Case Background

#### Case Synopsis

#### Investigation Comments

# Fire

## Ignition Sequence

Electrical System	Common room, den, family room, living room, lounge		
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Fire Cause

Area of Origin

Equipment Power Source

Equipment Portability

Area of Origin Comments

Electrical arcing	Paper, including cellulose, waxed paper
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Heat Source

Material Ignited

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Equipment Involved In  
Ignition

Equipment Make

Equipment Model

Equipment Serial Number

## Fire and Smoke Spread Information

Confined to floor of origin	
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Fire Spread Material

Fire Spread Avenue

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Smoke Spread Material

Smoke Spread Avenue

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Fire Comments

## Weather

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Visibility

Relative Humidity (%)

Wind Speed (Mph)

Wind Direction

86.0	0	No	
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Temperature (Fahrenheit)

Precipitation

Lightning

Information Obtained  
From Weather

59% humidity Dew Point 68 degrees
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Weather Comments

# Property Details (1 of 1)

## Property

N/A

Name

584 Magnolia Avenue

2

Address

Apt/Suite/Room

Saint Paul

Ramsey County

Minnesota

55130

City

County

State

Postal Code

\$77,200.00

\$10,000.00

\$40,000.00

Pre Fire Value

Content Loss Value

Structure Loss Value

Property Description

## Area

Structure

Urban

Area Type

Area Description

Area Quality

## Structure

Multifamily dwelling	Occupied
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Property Use

Structure Occupancy

	Yes	Operating Properly
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Alarm Type

Smoke Detector Present

Smoke Detector Performance

None	
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Sprinkler Standpipes

Sprinkler Standpipes Performance

48		35	2	
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Structure Length (Ft)

Structure Height (Ft)

Structure Width (Ft)

Number Of Stories

Number Of Units

Balloon	Type V	StructureMaterial_Wood
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Construction Type

Structure Type

Structure Material

Basement	Wood	Pitched	Asphalt
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Foundation

Exterior Covering

Roof Type

Roof Material

There was heavy fire damage to the roof joists in the attic area above the second floor bedroom. The second floor bedroom had significant fire and heat damage. Crews opened up the ceiling in this area. The rest of the second floor had some fire and heat damage.

The first floor and basement appeared undamaged by the fire.  
The rest of the living spaces appeared to be normal and in good working condition.

Two small gasoline containers and a propane cylinder were found in the first floor kitchen area.

### Interior Exam

The fire did not breach the roof. SPFD Ladder 7 vented the roof.

The exterior was in good shape for its age.

No fire damage was noted on the exterior apart from some smoke damage above the attic vent located at the top of the rear gable.

### Exterior Exam

# Witness Statement (1 of 2)

## Witness Statement

Fang	Susan	
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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

1011 Rose Avenue	
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Street 1

Street 2

Saint Paul	Minnesota	55106
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City

State

PostalCode

Asian	06/05/1990	M413187960308
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Race

Date of Birth

Driver's Liscense Number

- I was out with friends at the time of the fire. -One of my tenants called and said that my house was on fire. - I asked if 911 was called and I drove to the fire scene.
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Witness Statement Comments

## Witness Statement (2 of 2)

### Witness Statement

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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

584 Magnolia Avenue, Apt. #2	
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Street 1

Street 2

Saint Paul	Minnesota	55130
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City

State

PostalCode

Asian	09/05/1977	2576240970518
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Race

Date of Birth

Driver's Liscense Number

I was at a friends house when the fire happened.  
I was moving things into my home from my parents house today.  
My daughter and I left 584 Magnolia around 1600 hrs. At this time I called Susan my landlord, and told her that the circuit breaker had tripped in my living space where the AC unit was mounted into the window. She said she would have her brother come to fix the problem right away.  
We waited for close to 2 hours and nobody showed up so we left to get more things.  
When we came back lights were on but nothing was fixed.  
I plugged the AC unit into a surge strip and the AC started to work again.  
We left to go to a friends house so the space would cool off and I got a call saying the house was on fire.

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 second floor living area. The area of origin was the ceiling. The first fuel/material ignited was most likely an overloaded electrical wire. The ignition source was most likely paper and cellulose. The oxidant was normal atmospheric air. The action that brought these items together was overheating of electrical wires. The classification of fire cause is accidental. This concludes my investigation and report.

## Signature

Bever, Thomas

Lead Investigator

Signature

Date Submitted

## Document Attachment List

Photo Log