



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

Investigation Report

Case

Case Details

SPFD211231057289	Waldron, John	Closed	21-265-673
Case Number	Lead Investigator	Status	Name
Confidential	Undetermined	Undetermined	
Confidentiality	Disposition	Fire Cause	
12/31/2021	12:25		
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 vacant duplex. Firefighters arrived and found smoke coming from the roof. Firefighters accessed the second floor of the structure from the Alpha side. They were able to ascend to the attic via a stairwell on the second floor. Firefighters extinguished the fire and conducted overhaul. This dwelling was condemned four days prior to this fire, however people were seen by neighbors coming and going from the structure. A neighbor from 823 3rd Street saw two black males and one white female exit the structure at around 0900. Additionally, Squad 1 stated that the front door of the second floor apartment was taken off its hinges, and the second floor exterior door was nailed shut from the inside. Command was terminated and the scene was released.

Case Background

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Case Synopsis

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

Investigation Comments

Fire

Ignition Sequence

Undetermined	Attic: vacant, crawl space above top story		
Fire Cause	Area of Origin	Equipment Power Source	Equipment Portability
Area of Origin Comments			
Undetermined		Wood or paper, processed, other	
Heat Source		Material Ignited	
Heater, excluding catalytic and oil-filled heaters			
Equipment Involved In Ignition	Equipment Make	Equipment Model	Equipment Serial Number

Fire and Smoke Spread Information

Confined to floor of origin	
Fire Spread Material	Fire Spread Avenue
Smoke Spread Material	Smoke Spread Avenue
Fire Comments	

Weather

		12	North
Visibility	Relative Humidity (%)	Wind Speed (Mph)	Wind Direction
18.0	0	No	
Temperature (Fahrenheit)	Precipitation	Lightning	Information Obtained From Weather
Light snow flurries at the time of the fire.			
Weather Comments			

Property Details (1 of 1)

Property

N/A			
Name			
829 3rd Street East			
Address		Apt/Suite/Room	
Saint Paul	Ramsey County	Minnesota	55106
City	County	State	Postal Code
\$138,600.00	\$2,000.00	\$20,000.00	
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
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Property Use

Structure Occupancy

	No	Not Operating
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Alarm Type

Smoke Detector Present

Smoke Detector Performance

None	Not Operating
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Sprinkler Standpipes

Sprinkler Standpipes Performance

124		41	3	
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Structure Length (Ft)

Structure Height (Ft)

Structure Width (Ft)

Number Of Stories

Number Of Units

Wood Frame	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

Fire damage was most extensive in the attic space. An electric baseboard heater was found against the knee wall where the fire probably originated. The fire burned through the floor under the right side of the baseboard heater and spread into the Delta side knee wall causing alligator charring on the wall studs inside.
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Interior Exam

No exterior fire damage. Fire crews stated that the front door to the second floor duplex was removed from the hinges prior to their arrival. Also, the rear door from the second floor duplex was nailed shut from the inside.

Exterior Exam

Alarm and Security Services

None	No		
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Sprinkler Standpipes

Smoke Detectors Present

Smoke Detector Locations

Fire Suppression

Opened And Unlocked	Closed And Locked	
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Doors

Windows

Other Entrances

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Alarm Protection/Security Comments

Witness Statement (1 of 2)

Witness Statement

██████	██████	
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Last Name

First Name

Middle Name

911 Caller	
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Type

Employer

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Interviewed Date

Interviewed By

Interviewed By Other

██████████	
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Street 1

Street 2

Saint Paul	Minnesota	55106
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City

State

PostalCode

	██████████	
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Race

Date of Birth

Driver's Liscense Number

- I was home at the time of the fire, I smelled wood burning and noticed smoke coming from the attic at the address across the street.
- I called 9-1-1.
- I've noticed people coming and going from the house in recent days but I did not see anyone around the house at the time of the fire.

Witness Statement Comments

Witness Statement (2 of 2)

Witness Statement

Booker	Cardea	
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Last Name	First Name	Middle Name
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Other	
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Type	Employer
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Interviewed Date	Interviewed By	Interviewed By Other
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823 3rd Street East	
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Street 1	Street 2
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Saint Paul	Minnesota	55106
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City	State	PostalCode
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Black or African American	02/14/2005	
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Race	Date of Birth	Driver's Liscense Number
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- I saw two black males and one white female leave the house at around 0900.
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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 that the fire began in the attic. The area of origin was most likely on the delta (east) side of the interior of the attic. The first fuel/material ignited was most likely the insulation and wood studs based on the alligator charring inside of the knee wall and on the floor below the base board heater. The ignition source was possibly an electrical based board heater, however no circuit breakers were tripped. The oxidant was normal atmospheric air. No evidence of VOC's were found on the Toxi Rae monitor. Even though vagrants were coming and going from the structure their was no evidence of this fire being incendiary. The action that brought these items together was undetermined. The classification of fire cause is undetermined. This concludes my investigation and report.

Signature

Waldron, John		
Lead Investigator	Signature	Date Submitted

Document Attachment List

Photo Log