



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

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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			
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 NameFirst NameMiddle Name

Occupant	
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TypeEmployer

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Interviewed DateInterviewed ByInterviewed By Other

733 Thomas (lower)	
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Street 1Street 2

Saint Paul	Minnesota	55104
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CityStatePostalCode

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RaceDate of BirthDriver's Liscense Number

- I was home at the time of the fire.	- Upstairs resident was not home.
- 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.	- I called 9-1-1.

Witness Statement Comments

Witness Statement (2 of 2)

Witness Statement

Chang	Inho	
Last Name	First Name	Middle Name
Owner		
Type	Employer	
Interviewed Date	Interviewed By	Interviewed By Other
733 Thomas		
Street 1	Street 2	
Saint Paul	Minnesota	55104
City	State	PostalCode
Race	Date of Birth	Driver's Liscense Number
- Owner of the duplex		
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