



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

Investigation Report

Case

Case Details

SPFD220517020882	Johnson, Randall	Closed	22-085-751
Case Number	Lead Investigator	Status	Name
Confidential	Accidental	Battery Related	
Confidentiality	Disposition	Fire Cause	
05/17/2022	22:52		
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 garage. Firefighters arrived and found heavy smoke and some fire coming from the closed overhead garage door. Firefighters extinguished the fire and conducted overhaul. Command was terminated and the scene was released.
Case Background
Case Synopsis
This report is based on presently known and available facts, data, and information.
Investigation Comments

Fire

Ignition Sequence

Battery Related	Vehicle storage area; garage, carport		
Fire Cause	Area of Origin	Equipment Power Source	Equipment Portability
Area of Origin Comments			
Electrical arcing	Plastic		
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

		9	From SSE
Visibility	Relative Humidity (%)	Wind Speed (Mph)	Wind Direction
57.0	0	No	
Temperature (Fahrenheit)	Precipitation	Lightning	Information Obtained From Weather
Nothing notable.			
Weather Comments			

Property Details (1 of 1)

Property

Detached Garage			
Name			
1610 Blair Avenue			
Address		Apt/Suite/Room	
Saint Paul	Ramsey County	Minnesota	55104
City	County	State	Postal Code
\$50,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$50,000.00	
Pre Fire Value	Content Loss Value	Structure Loss Value	
Property Description			

Area

Structure	Urban	
Area Type	Area Description	Area Quality

Structure

Parking garage, (detached residential garage)	Unoccupied
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Property Use

Structure Occupancy

	No	
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Alarm Type

Smoke Detector Present

Smoke Detector Performance

None	
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Sprinkler Standpipes

Sprinkler Standpipes Performance

22		20		
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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

Slab	Other	Pitched	Asphalt
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Foundation

Exterior Covering

Roof Type

Roof Material

Heaviest fire damage noted near front of the right side (garage has a dividing wall). The battery that was being charged was located just below the heaviest fire damage.

Right side of garage contained a very heavy fire load including multiple gas cans, propane bottles and many miscellaneous pieces of equipment.

Interior Exam

Garage had all doors locked on arrival.

Exterior Exam

Alarm and Security Services

None	No		
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Sprinkler Standpipes

Smoke Detectors Present

Smoke Detector Locations

Fire Suppression

Closed And Locked	Closed And Locked	
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Doors

Windows

Other Entrances

Alarm Protection/Security Comments

Motor Vehicle (1 of 1)

Vehicle Description

1992	Honda		Red
Year	Make	Model	Color
27-798	Minnesota		
License Plate Number	License Plate State	Vin	

Owner

Rick Fowler			
Owner Name	Owner Phone		
Owner Street 1	Owner Street 2		
Owner City	Owner State	Owner Postal Code	

Operator

Operator Name	Operator Phone		
Operator Street 1	Operator Street 2		
Operator City	Operator State	Operator Postal Code	

Exterior

	Yes		
Exterior Prior Damage	Exterior Fire Damage	Tires / Wheels	Parts Missing

Fuel System

			Gasoline
Fuel System Type	Fuel System Prior Damage	Fuel System Fire Damage	Fuel Type
Condition Of Tank	Filler Cap Condition	Fuel Line Condition	

Engine Compartment

	No		
Engine Prior Damage	Engine Fire Damage		
Fluid Level Oil	Fluid Level Transmission	Fluid Level Radiator	Fluid Level Other

Interior

	No		
Interior Prior Damage	Interior Fire Damage	Ignition System	Key In Ignition
Personal Contents Missing	Accessories Missing	Odometer Reading	Service Sticker Information

Security

Alarm Present	Doors / Trunk Locked	Window Position

Origin / Ignition Sequence

Area of Origin	Heat Source	Material Ignited
Ignition Factor		

Motor Vehicle Comments

Examination of the exterior of the vehicle found that the fire and heat damage was most significant on the passenger/engine/cargo area of the vehicle. Examination of the interior of the vehicle found that the fire and heat damage was most significant on the passenger/engine/cargo area of the vehicle.

Witness Statement (1 of 2)

Witness Statement

Fowler	Rick	
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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

1610 Blair Ave	
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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

- I was home at the time of the fire.
and a half prior to the fire.
- I was charging a battery on the back of the 4 wheeler.
- I was alerted to the fire when the trucks showed up.

- I had been working in the garage an hour to an hour

Witness Statement Comments

Witness Statement (2 of 2)

Witness Statement

Goertz	Michael	
Last Name	First Name	Middle Name
Owner		
Type	Employer	
Interviewed Date	Interviewed By	Interviewed By Other
Unknown		
Street 1	Street 2	
Saint Paul	Minnesota	
City	State	PostalCode
Race	Date of Birth	Driver's Liscense Number
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 garage. The area of origin was the automotive battery being charged while placed on the rear rack of a 4 wheeler. The first fuel/material ignited was most likely plastic. The ignition source was most likely electrical arcing. The oxidant was normal atmospheric air. The action that brought these items together was failure of the charging system. The classification of fire cause is accidental. This concludes my investigation and report.

Signature

Johnson, Randall		
Lead Investigator	Signature	Date Submitted

Document Attachment List

Photo Log