



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

Investigation Report

Case

Case Details

SPFD250221009482	Gregor, Robert	Closed	25-028-586
Case Number	Lead Investigator	Status	Name
Confidential	Incendiary	Intentionally Started	
Confidentiality	Disposition	Fire Cause	
02/21/2025	07:31		
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 commercial structure. Firefighters arrived and found light smoke showing from multiple boarded-up windows. Firefighters evacuated the structure, 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

Intentionally Started	Interior stairway or ramp		
Fire Cause	Area of Origin	Equipment Power Source	Equipment Portability
Area of Origin Comments			
Undetermined		Flammable or combustible liquid, other	
Heat Source		Material Ignited	
Equipment Involved In Ignition	Equipment Make	Equipment Model	Equipment Serial Number

Fire and Smoke Spread Information

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

Weather

		6	130
Visibility	Relative Humidity (%)	Wind Speed (Mph)	Wind Direction
3.0	0	No	
Temperature (Fahrenheit)	Precipitation	Lightning	Information Obtained From Weather
Weather Comments			

Property Details (1 of 1)

Property

Checker Board Pizza			
Name			
992 Arcade Street			
Address		Apt/Suite/Room	
Saint Paul	Ramsey County	Minnesota	55106
City	County	State	Postal Code
\$237,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$27,500.00	
Pre Fire Value	Content Loss Value	Structure Loss Value	
Property Description			

Area

Structure	Urban	
Area Type	Area Description	Area Quality

Structure

Restaurant or cafeteria		Vacant		
Property Use		Structure Occupancy		
	No			
Alarm Type	Smoke Detector Present	Smoke Detector Performance		
None				
Sprinkler Standpipes		Sprinkler Standpipes Performance		
157		52	2	
Structure Length (Ft)	Structure Height (Ft)	Structure Width (Ft)	Number Of Stories	Number Of Units
Ordinary	Type III	StructureMaterial_Masonry		
Construction Type	Structure Type	Structure Material		
Basement	Brick/Stone	Flat	Asphalt	
Foundation	Exterior Covering	Roof Type	Roof Material	

Entering the building working from the area of no damage/fire involvement to the area of most damage. There was no noted fire damage in the basement, there was a gang of natural gas meters, all were secure and gas was shut off.

On the first floor in the former pizza restaurant/bar space there was light smoke with no fire damage, the ceiling had been removed and holes were noted in the floor above. There was no furnishings in the space.

In the alpha/bravo quadrant, the stairs leading to the second floor are located. This area had heavy fire involvement and had damage from a previous fire. Crews reported a strong odor of gasoline on overhaul. PID sampling had a strong hit for VOCs along the stairs. A sample of the stair tread and riser was taken for chemical analysis.

Examination of the second floor showed little fire damage, there was a spot fire next to some vinyl-cased windows that had been stacked against a stud wall. These were in close proximity to the stairs and the flow path of the fire in the stairs. The flow of fire gasses caused the vinyl to melt and ignite, creating a localized spot fire. The entire second floor is gutted down to bare studs, and there are several holes in areas with missing flooring.

Interior Exam

The building is located on the Northeast corner of Jenks and Arcade, with the front of the building facing west on Arcade St. The building is a vacant bar/pizza restaurant with apartment spaces above. There are two entrances located on the Alpha side of the structure with additional entrances on the Charlie and Delta sides. There are multiple boarded up windows on the second floor, along with all first floor windows being boarded up.

On arrival, light smoke was noted to be emanating from the second floor on the Delta side and Alpha side. Fire crews were in the process of removing boarded-up windows, and hoses were stretched to the interior for a fire attack.

Previous fire damage was noted on the alpha entrance to the stairs leading to the second floor. There was no noted charring on the exterior of the doorway frame. There were no noted signs of forcible entry on this door.

The Charlie, delta, and Alpha/delta doors were forced open by fire crews. The natural gas feed for the building is located on the alpha side and was previously locked. The building's electrical service had been disconnected by the power utility previously.

Exterior Exam

Alarm and Security Services

None	No		
Sprinkler Standpipes	Smoke Detectors Present	Smoke Detector Locations	Fire Suppression
Closed And Locked	Closed And Locked		
Doors	Windows	Other Entrances	
Alarm Protection/Security Comments			

Utilities

Electrical Status	Electrical Entrance	
	Natural	Xcel Energy
Fuel Status	Fuel Type	Fuel Company
	City of Saint Paul Municipal Water	

Witness Statement (1 of 4)

Witness Statement

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Last Name	First Name	Middle Name
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911 Caller	
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Type	Employer
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Interviewed By	Interviewed By Other
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Street 1	Street 2
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Saint Paul	Minnesota	
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City	State	PostalCode
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Race	Date of Birth	Driver's Liscense Number
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Plumes of smoke coming PLUMES OF SMOKE COMING OUT OF BOARDED UP WINDOWS ON THE 2ND FLOOR. VERY HAZY/SMOKY IN AREA.

Witness Statement Comments

Witness Statement (2 of 4)

Witness Statement

Tuftee	Lee	
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Last Name	First Name	Middle Name
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Fire Department	
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Type	Employer
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Interviewed By	Interviewed By Other
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645 Randolph Ave	
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Street 1	Street 2
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Saint Paul	Minnesota	55102
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City	State	PostalCode
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Race	Date of Birth	Driver's Liscense Number
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Fire Captain of E-7 reported strong odor of gasoline in stairway and building during overhaul.
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Witness Statement Comments

Witness Statement (3 of 4)

Witness Statement

Martinez	Jason	
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Last NameFirst NameMiddle Name

Fire Department	
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TypeEmployer

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Interviewed ByInterviewed By Other

645 Randolph Ave	
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Street 1Street 2

Saint Paul	Minnesota	55102
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CityStatePostalCode

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RaceDate of BirthDriver's Liscense Number

Captain of Squad 1. Arrived and found smoke showing from boarded up windows. Crew forced doors on C/D side of building. Found active fire in stairway leading from the 1st to 2nd floor. Unlocked front door/deadbolt. Noted that there was no burglar bracing or other reinforcement to front door.
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Witness Statement Comments

Witness Statement (4 of 4)

Witness Statement

Moua	Neng	Hue
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Last NameFirst NameMiddle Name

Owner	
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TypeEmployer

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Interviewed ByInterviewed By Other

11 Wheelock Pkwy E	
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Street 1Street 2

Saint Paul	Minnesota	55117-3933
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CityStatePostalCode

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RaceDate of BirthDriver's Liscense Number

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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 stairway from the first to second floor. The area of origin was the path of the stairway. The first fuel/material ignited was most likely a flammable liquid, most likely gasoline. A sample of stair tread was taken for analysis. The ignition source was most likely an open flame from an incendiary device. The oxidant was normal atmospheric air. The action that brought these items together was an intentional human act. The classification of fire cause is incendiary. This concludes my investigation and report.

Technical Review by J. Tweed, on 03.21.2025

Signature

Gregor, Robert		
Lead Investigator	Signature	Date Submitted

Document Attachment List

Photo Log