



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

Investigation Report

Case

Case Details

SPFD210724031281	Johnson, Randall	Closed	N/A
Case Number	Lead Investigator	Status	Name
Confidential	Undetermined	Electrical System	
Confidentiality	Disposition	Fire Cause	
07/24/2021	21:35		
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 an apartment building. Firefighters arrived and found light smoke showing from multiple sides. Firefighters evacuated the structure, extinguished the fire and conducted overhaul. Command was terminated and the scene was released.
Case Background
Case Synopsis
Investigation Comments

Fire

Ignition Sequence

Electrical System	Closet		
Fire Cause	Area of Origin	Equipment Power Source	Equipment Portability
Area of Origin Comments			
Electrical arcing	Sawn wood, including all finished lumber		
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

		5	W
Visibility	Relative Humidity (%)	Wind Speed (Mph)	Wind Direction
78.0	0	No	
Temperature (Fahrenheit)	Precipitation	Lightning	Information Obtained From Weather
No notable weather issues.			
Weather Comments			

Property Details (1 of 1)

Property

N/A			
Name			
1079 Arkwright Street			
Address		Apt/Suite/Room	
Saint Paul	Ramsey County	Minnesota	55130
City	County	State	Postal Code
\$194,400.00	\$20,000.00	\$50,000.00	
Pre Fire Value	Content Loss Value	Structure Loss Value	
Property Description			

Area

Structure	Urban	
Area Type	Area Description	Area Quality

Structure

Multifamily dwelling		Occupied	
Property Use		Structure Occupancy	
	Yes	Operating Properly	
Alarm Type	Smoke Detector Present	Smoke Detector Performance	
None			
Sprinkler Standpipes		Sprinkler Standpipes Performance	
72		31	3
Structure Length (Ft)	Structure Height (Ft)	Structure Width (Ft)	Number Of Stories
Wood Frame	Type III	StructureMaterial_Masonry	
Construction Type	Structure Type	Structure Material	
Basement	Brick/Stone	Flat	Other
Foundation	Exterior Covering	Roof Type	Roof Material

The heaviest damage appeared to be located on the lowest (garden) level in a utility closet adjacent to the laundry room. A "V" pattern was visible along side the closet with uniform heavy char on all sides of the closet. A pipe chase extending up from the closet allowed heat/smoke/ fire to travel to second and third floors.

Breakers were found to be tripped in multiple areas, including the determined area of origin. No accelerants were found with the aid of monitors. The process of elimination of other causes in that area leads to probable electrical issue.

Interior Exam

Brick exterior. Crews reported smoke coming from rear door of the building (Charlie Side).

Exterior Exam

Alarm and Security Services

None	Yes		
Sprinkler Standpipes	Smoke Detectors Present	Smoke Detector Locations	Fire Suppression
Closed And Locked	Closed And Locked		
Doors	Windows	Other Entrances	
Alarm Protection/Security 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 an unfinished utility closet located in the lower level. The first fuel/material ignited was most likely wood. The ignition source was most likely electrical. The oxidant was normal atmospheric air. The action that brought these items together was undetermined. The classification of fire cause is accidental. This concludes my investigation and report.

Note: No excessive amount of volatile organic compounds (accelerants) were found.

Signature

Johnson, Randall		
Lead Investigator	Signature	Date Submitted

Document Attachment List

Photo Log