



Incident #: 21SFM-110-OF
Call #: 21-19891

Date/Time Reported: 05/11/2021 2302
Report Date/Time: 05/12/2021 1308
Status: No Crime Involved

Reporting Officer: Fire Investigator James Given
Assisting Officer: Fire Investigator Traci Choiniere
Approving Officer: Chief Deputy Michael Sweeney

Signature: _____

Signature: _____

EVENTS (S)

LOCATION TYPE: Commercial/Office Building Zone: Kent County
OFFICE PARK BUILDING 30
33 COLLEGE HILL RD Apt. #15
WARWICK RI 02886

1 Undetermined Fire

VICTIM(S)

SEX RACE AGE SSN PHONE

1 COLLEGE PARK CONDO ASSOC

VICTIM CONNECTED TO OFFENSE NUMBER(S): 1

2 MERRIMACK MUTUAL INS

Mailing Address: 95 OLD RIVER RD
ANDOVER, MA

VICTIM CONNECTED TO OFFENSE NUMBER(S): 1

3 SHEKARCHI, JOHN

58

DOB:
EMPLOYER:
ETHNICITY:
RESIDENT STATUS: Resident
VICTIM CONNECTED TO OFFENSE NUMBER(S): 1

4 KENNEDY, JULIE

58

DOB:
EMPLOYER:
ETHNICITY:
RESIDENT STATUS: Resident
VICTIM CONNECTED TO OFFENSE NUMBER(S): 1

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#	VICTIM(S)	SEX	RACE	AGE	SSN	PHONE
5	MARTIRA, ANYA			44		
	DOB:					
	EMPLOYER:					
	ETHNICITY:					
	RESIDENT STATUS: Resident					
	VICTIM CONNECTED TO OFFENSE NUMBER(S): 1					
6	SHEKARCHI, K JOSEPH			58		
	DOB:					
	EMPLOYER:					
	ETHNICITY:					
	RESIDENT STATUS: Resident					
	VICTIM CONNECTED TO OFFENSE NUMBER(S): 1					
7	SHEKARCHI, MARY			55		
	DOB:					
	EMPLOYER:					
	ETHNICITY:					
	RESIDENT STATUS: Resident					
	VICTIM CONNECTED TO OFFENSE NUMBER(S): 1					
8	AMALFETANO, ANTHONY			64		
	DOB:					
	EMPLOYER:					
	ETHNICITY:					
	RESIDENT STATUS: Resident					
	VICTIM CONNECTED TO OFFENSE NUMBER(S): 1					
9	MORGAN, TIMOTHY J			53		
	DOB:					
	EMPLOYER:					
	ETHNICITY:					
	RESIDENT STATUS: Resident					
	VICTIM CONNECTED TO OFFENSE NUMBER(S): 1					
10	DELTORO, ANTHONY			61		
	DOB:					
	EMPLOYER:					
	ETHNICITY:					
	RESIDENT STATUS: Resident					
	VICTIM CONNECTED TO OFFENSE NUMBER(S): 1					

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#	PERSON (S)	PERSON TYPE	SEX	RACE	AGE	SSN	PHONE
1	AVATAR RESIDENTIAL [REDACTED]	BUSINESS					
2	MEMERY, RAYMOND [REDACTED] DOB: EMPLOYER: AVATAR RESIDENTIAL	WITNESS	M	W	52		
3	MCKENNA, KEVIN [REDACTED] DOB: EMPLOYER: AVATAR RESIDENTIAL	WITNESS	M	W	54		
4	BERNARDO, DONNY [REDACTED] DOB:	WITNESS	M	W	42		
5	FRASER, CAROL [REDACTED] DOB: EMPLOYER: BUILDING 30	WITNESS	F	W	57		

ADDITIONAL ASSISTING OFFICERS

Fire Investigator Hannah Cathryn Burnes

Fire Investigator Kevin Morris

Attachments for 21SFM-110-OF	
Description	Type
SCENE SKETCH Attachment#: 0F76DF04BE3E463B83CA74C09BDC7E47	PDF
DEM REPORT Attachment#: 2F68510BC99244639168AABF4C33916F	PDF
INTERVIEW LT Lusignan Attachment#: C17AB1515A0345AA8CE18A09B7F5ADA2	WMA
Insurance Immunity Act Letter Attachment#: ED4F5A017C2E44868B77127BFB0490F3	DOC

Synopsis of the Incident

1. On 11 May 2021 the Warwick Fire Department responded to a structure fire at 33 College Hill Rd Bldg 15. The property involved included a 2-story office building. At the request of the local jurisdiction, the Office of the State Fire Marshal conducted a fire scene examination. Based on the fire scene examination and follow-up investigation, the fire is undetermined.
2. There were no deaths related to this incident. There were no injuries reported related to this fire.

Notification and Response

3. On Tuesday at approximately 23:20 hours, I received call from Investigator Traci Choiniere to investigate a reported structure fire located at 33 College Hill Rd Bldg 15. At approximately 23:45 hours, I arrived at the fire *scene* to inspect and evaluate the conditions and circumstances of the incident.

Scope of Work

4. The purpose of my response was to determine the *area* or *point of origin*, source of *ignition*, material(s) ignited, and the circumstances or activity that brought the ignition source and materials together
5. This report is intended to document the investigation and analysis completed relative to the origin and cause of the fire incident that occurred. It should be noted that this report does not, nor was it intended to contain every investigative detail considered as part of the investigation. Rather, this report highlights information and evidence available at the time of the investigation, significant to the origin and cause analysis. Should additional information become available, I reserve the right to consider that new information, amend the report, and change my opinion if it is warranted.

Fire Investigative Team

6. The fire investigative team included:
 - a) Investigator James Given, Deputy State Fire Marshal
 - b) Investigator Traci Choiniere, Deputy State Fire Marshal
 - c) Investigator Kevin Morris, Deputy State Fire Marshal
 - d) Investigator Hannah Burnes, Deputy State Fire Marshal

e) Fire Marshal Stephen Kapalka, Warwick Fire Department

f) Detective Jeffery Viveros, Warwick Police Department

7. The investigative team members developed a plan of action for this investigation and assigned the investigative functions to be carried out during the examination and investigation.

Initial Scene Assessment

8. Upon arrival I observed a 2-story structure, wood-framed office building, on a foundation measuring approximately 3240 gross square feet. The roof and floor systems were constructed with roof and floor trusses respectively. The floors had $\frac{3}{4}$ inch plywood subfloor and a mix of carpeting and laminate hardwood floor coverings. The structure was originally constructed in 1986.
9. The exterior walls were covered with vinyl siding on three sides and a brick façade on the front. The roof was covered with asphalt shingles.
10. This structure can be considered Type V construction according to NFPA 220, Standard on Types of Building Construction, 2015. The occupancy classification of the structure at the time of the fire was Business (NFPA 101 Life Safety Code, 2015).
11. The utilities and mechanical features were overhead electrical service connection from pole # 3-2 to electric service meters located in the basement of the structure. The electric service circuit breaker panels were located in each unit with the meters and main shutoffs in the basement in the northeast corner. The structure was heated and cooled by a forced hot air furnace and central air conditioning with the air handler located in the basement.
12. Fire protection systems and life safety features present at the time of the fire were a local fire alarm system. There were no reports of the fire alarm sounding.
13. Safety concerns noted were a partial collapse of the building, unstable exterior walls. The building official was notified and responded; the building was condemned.
14. Weather conditions were 55°, 33% humidity, 15 mph WNW wind with gusts to 23 mph, and fair sky as noted in the attached report from Weather Underground.com. Weather conditions at the time of the fire did not appear to be related to the fire cause however, the wind may have been a factor in fire spread.
15. I spoke with Warwick Fire Chief Peter McMichael and he stated the fire department was notified by a 911 call reporting a brush fire behind the McDonald's on Bald Hill Road. There is a wooded hillside behind McDonald's and Bank of America. When fire crews (Engine 9) got to that location, they observed fire at the top of the hill. Engine 9 proceeded to College Hill Road and found 33 College Hill Road Bldg. 15 with heavy fire showing from the north and west sides of the building. Engine 9 reported fire coming from

windows on the north and west sides extending up and into the roof. The roof had self-vented. The first responders went immediately to defensive fire suppression operations. The electricity was cut by National Grid at the pole and the gas was turned off at the meters and eventually at the street.

16. After determining an investigative plan, I verified that the fire ground was secured so that unauthorized persons could recognize the perimeters of the investigative scene and could be kept from restricted areas so that any potential evidence would be protected from damage or destruction. A scene perimeter was established by Warwick Police and Fire Departments, using uniformed officers and vehicles.
17. Based on the conditions found at the scene, an evaluation was made regarding the complexity of the investigation. An evaluation was made to determine if additional equipment or staffing was required. A determination was made to request the Accelerant K9 team to the scene. Investigator Hannah Burnes and her AK9 "Dream" responded to the scene. Dream was brought through the scene and did not alert. Refer to Investigator Burnes' supplemental narrative for full details. Given the amount of damage to the building it was decided the scene would be held by Warwick PD for the night and the scene exam would commence in the morning of 12 May 2021 at 08:00. It should be noted that the scene exam was conducted over several days. A fence was installed around the building and the remaining first floor window openings and doors were boarded up for security.
18. As the scene examination was conducted, the scene was photo documented using a Nikon digital SLR camera, a Mavic Mini Drone for aerial photos and video, and an Olympus TG-5 digital camera for close-up microscope photos. Digital color photographs taken as part of this investigation were identified and labeled with the case incident report number.
19. An exam of the exterior began on the east (address) side of the building moving counterclockwise. The east side had the main entry doors. There was no sign of forced entry on these doors. The doors were full view glass, the glass had been broken during fire suppression operations. There were six windows on this side, all glass was broken during fire suppression. The east side had a brick façade which was intact with no fire or smoke damage. The roof visible from this side had a large portion burned off and collapsed into the building.
20. The north side of the building had a handicapped ramp entrance and the electrical service cable. The service cable was housed in a steel conduit which was attached to the building and entered the building at the foundation. The entry door had no evidence of forced entry and was reported to be unsecured. There is no key to the door. The door had two side light windows. The sidelight on the left of the door was broken and had fire damage to its frame and the adjacent vinyl siding. The gable portion of wall was severely fire damaged and most of it was consumed or collapsed. The western most section of the north wall was severely fire damaged. The damage was most severe at the northwest corner. Siding and plywood were burned off this section off the wall and the studs were severely fire damaged. There had been two windows in this area of the wall, the one closest to the corner was consumed, the next window east had collapsed out of its opening leaving the wood wall studs and header. All other windows with the exception of the eastern most first-floor windows had been broken during fire suppression.
21. The exterior exam continued to the west side. The west side had severe fire damage. The west side first and second floor walls and floors had collapsed as well as the roof. The most severe fire damage was

toward the northwest corner of the building. The least fire damage was to the south end of the west side. There were areas of the south end of the second floor that were visible that had collapsed but had no evidence of fire damage. The first-floor exterior wall had collapsed to the outside and was on the ground with the interior of the wall face up. The north end of this wall had severe fire damage; the fire damage decreased to the south. The second-floor wall collapsed into the building the fire damage observed was similar the that of the first floor. The windows in these two exterior walls were broken. This damage may have occurred when the walls collapsed. The windows on the north end of these walls had severe fire damage. The first-floor windows at the north end of the west wall were reported by first arriving fire personnel to be breached by fire with fire coming out of them and burning up the exterior wall. The damage observed is consistent with these observations.

22. The south side of the building had the natural gas meters. The meters were intact and un-damaged. The gas was turned off at the meters by firefighters. National Grid secured the gas at the street. There was severe fire damage observed at the gable end. This would be the area of the attic space. The siding and plywood sheathing were burned off the gable and the wall studs had severe fire damage. The west end of the second-floor wall was partially collapsed and leaning into the building. The first-floor wall was still standing but leaning into the building at the west end. The first-floor windows were intact, the second-floor windows were broken during fire suppression. Other than the fire damage observed on the gable there was no other fire damage to the south wall.
23. I began the interior exam at the main door (east side). The interior exam was very limited due to the structural integrity of the building. The interior walls were covered with painted drywall and the ceilings were suspended ceiling grid with ceiling tiles. The main entry consisted of double doors with full view glass panels. The glass panels were broken during fire suppression. There was no evidence of forced entry on these doors. Inside the main entry was a foyer with a stairway that went up to the second floor and down to the basement. At the north side of the foyer was a door to suite A. The door was closed with no evidence of forced entry. Suite A was visible through the front windows. There was severe smoke and water damage and moderate fire damage in this room with the more severe fire damage at the ceiling level at the west end. The ceiling and floor had evidence of partial collapse. At the south end of the foyer there was a hall that went toward the west end of the building and a door to suite B. The door was closed with no evidence of forced entry. Suite B was visible from the front windows. This room had severe water and smoke damage and moderate fire damage at the ceiling level. On the second floor at the top of the stairs there were doors on the north and south ends of the landing. The north door was for suite E and the south door for suite F. These doors were closed with no evidence of forced entry. These doors were eventually forced to gain entry to document the rooms. Suite E had severe fire damage. The ceiling and roof structure in most of the space had been consumed. The office furniture was severely fire damaged. A portion of the floor toward the west end had partially collapsed. Suite F at the south side of the second-floor landing had severe water and smoke damage and moderate fire damage. The fire damage was concentrated to the ceiling space above the ceiling tile.
24. The stairs leading to the basement were not passable due to the amount of water in the basement. Efforts were made to pump the water out of the basement to allow access to a limited area. The basement access was limited by building collapse.
25. I then went to the side door on the north side of the building. This door was reported to be unsecure at the

time of the fire. There apparently is no key, so it is left unlocked. Inside this door there is a stairway to the second floor and the basement. Basement entry was delayed due to the amount of water in the basement. Efforts were being made to pump the water out to allow access to the basement.

26. To the west inside the door was a door to Suite C. This door was severely damaged by fire. It was a fire rated door that had the outer wood veneer burned off on the inside indicating the door was closed at the time of the fire. The side of the door that faced the hall had smoke and heat damage from the top down to the door handle hardware, but the wood veneer was still intact. The steel door jamb was intact as was the latch mechanism on the door. There was no evidence of forced entry on this door of the jamb. There was another door east of the entry door. This door entered Suite A. The door was closed and had no evidence of forced entry. At the top of the stairs there was access to suites H and E. Due to structural stability this area was not accessible.
27. The water in the basement was eventually pumped down to a level that allowed access. There was no door at the bottom of the north stairs. It appeared the door had been removed from the opening sometime prior to the fire. The hinge pins were in the jamb side of the door hinges. Due to structural stability and collapsed material only a portion of the east end of the basement was accessible. This end of the basement had the electrical service meters and the main circuit breakers for each electrical distribution panel. The meters and main breakers were labeled 1-8 and one labeled house, additionally there were business cards that presumably indicated the occupant. Some cards did not match occupant names collected. Additionally, the occupants referenced the suites by letter, the meters were numbered, service cables from main breakers to the associated circuit breaker panels needed to be traced by hand to ensure the correct mains were identified. Service cables that were discovered in the northwest corner of the building were traced back to meters three and seven. The main breakers for these two services were found in the tripped position. The breakers were found in the following positions: Panel 1 had two breakers, one was tripped the other was not, panel 2 had a single breaker that was not tripped, panel 3 had a single breaker that was tripped (traced to the northwest corner of the building), panel 4 had two breakers, one was tripped the other was not, panel 5 had two breakers, not tripped, panel 6 had one breaker not tripped, panel 7 had one breaker that was tripped (traced to the northwest corner of the building), and panel 8 had two breakers, one was tripped the other was not.
28. There was fire damage throughout the basement. The fire damage was most severe at the west end. The upper floors had collapsed into this area of the basement. The floor trusses were burned through. The west end of the basement was partially visible from the outside. There was storage of paper files visible. The exposed edges of the paper were burned and the shelving they were on had some fire damage. In the northwest corner the wood sill on top of the foundation was visible. The sill had minor fire damage. The low level of damage indicated fire spread to the basement due to drop down of burning material from the first floor.
29. The east end of the basement had less damage than the west end. There were areas of collapse on the east end due to the damaged floor trusses. The fire patterns and effects observed indicated fire spread from the west end of the basement east.
30. There was a forced hot air furnace and air handler in the basement, but it was in an un-accessible area. Photo documentation was attempted however the view of the unit was obstructed by collapsed upper

floors.

31. I was able to get to the door at the bottom of the front stairs. That door was intact, closed but unlocked.

Preliminary Fire Spread Hypothesis

32. Based on the observations and information gathered at this point in the investigation the preliminary fire spread hypothesis is a fire originated in the west end of the building and spread throughout the west end causing structural instability and collapse, the location and condition of any competent sources of ignition and first ignited fuel needed to be identified and analyzed.

In-Depth Fire Scene Examination and Reconstruction

33. Based on the observations and information gathered at this point in the investigation an in-depth exam of west end of the building was required.

34. The excavation of the fire scene was conducted by systematically examining and removing the fire debris by layering, so that the debris was inspected for evidence of fire cause, the presence of potential ignition sources, and to ensure items of evidentiary value were preserved.

35. The fire scene reconstruction was conducted so protected areas and fire patterns could be identified and correlated as to the contents and/or structural remains, and items potentially critical to cause determination could be returned to their pre-fire location for the purpose of identifying the area or point of origin of the fire.

36. The west end of the building was severely fire damaged and has significant building collapse. The walls and floors from both floors and the roof had collapsed from the center of the building to the west exterior wall. The first-floor exterior wall had collapsed outside the building. The wall landed with the interior face up. This wall had the greatest amount of fire damage at the north end. The west end of the north wall was more severely fire damaged than the east end of the north wall. Much of the structural framing, plywood sheathing and vinyl siding was consumed in this corner. Along the west first-floor wall there had been five windows. There was evidence of ventilation due to fire breaching the window found on the window closest to northwest corner. The interior and exterior window frame had fire damage. The exterior damage was more severe at the top of the window where the top frame had been consumed as well as the top portion of the frame sides. The remaining windows on the west end first floor had interior fire damage, there was no evidence fire had broken through those windows. The exterior vinyl covered frames were intact with no fire or smoke damage. The vinyl siding above and around the windows was not fire or smoke damaged.

37. The second-floor exterior wall had collapsed into the building and fell with the exterior face up. The

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damage visible on the exterior of this wall was similar to the first-floor wall. The north end had severe fire damage and the damage decreased moving south. The exterior of the windows had no evidence of fire damage and the vinyl siding was un-damaged.

38. With the assistance of an excavator the debris in the northwest corner was removed in layers. Remnants of the west wall in that corner were found. Within the debris two electrical service panels were found. Both panels were examined. One panel was with debris from the first-floor wall, the other from the second-floor wall. The panel from the second floor had less damage than the first-floor panel. The wall framing pieces found for the second-floor wall had more severe fire damage outside edges than the inside edge indicating fire attacked the second-floor exterior wall from outside the building. The panel was examined and was found to have severe fire damage. There were remnants of the circuit breakers in the panel although broken up due to fire exposure. Due to the extensive damage to the panel it could not be determined if any breakers had tripped, although given the damage they would have been expected to be found in the tripped position due to thermal exposure from the fire. The Bakelite material that encases the internal components of the breakers had crumbled due to fire exposure, there were pieces of the metal components of the breakers found in the panel. There was no obvious evidence of failure in this panel. Obvious evidence of failure would include but not be limited to evidence of arcing to the cabinet and/or mass loss of the steel cabinet. The aluminum buss bars for the ground, neutral, and hot wire connections were intact with no evidence of failure. Below the panel there was a receptacle. The receptacle was severely fire damaged. The wire that fed the receptacle had insulation still on it to just below where it entered the breaker panel. The ground strap and terminals for the receptacle were still connected to the wires. They were intact and had no evidence of failure. If there had been a failure at this receptacle there would have been evidence of arcing and/or mass loss of the ground strap and/or terminals. The plastic outlet box the receptacle was in, although distorted by fire exposure, was intact.
39. The panel from the first-floor wall was also severely damaged. The damage to this panel was more severe than the second-floor panel. The circuit breakers were destroyed, the Bakelite material that encases the internal components of the breakers had crumbled due to fire exposure, there were pieces of the metal components of the breakers found in the panel, and the aluminum buss bars for the ground, neutral, and hot wire connections were melted. There was no obvious evidence of failure in this panel. Obvious evidence of failure would include but not be limited to evidence of arcing to the cabinet and/or mass loss of the steel cabinet. The electrical service cable for this panel and the second-floor panel was located running along the top of the foundation. The area where the cables went through the floor and into the wall cavity to the panels was observed. There were two holes drilled through the bottom of the wall and the subfloor. There was no charring to the wood here only some smoke damage. These holes would have acted as a ventilation point for a fire in the basement. If fire had spread from the basement into this wall cavity there would have been severe fire damage around these holes. Also, the wood sill at the top of the foundation would have evidence of severe fire damage and there was not. The sill had similar smoke damage around the holes for the electrical service cables. The end that would have entered the panel was melted. Due to the melt damage it could not be determined if there had been arc damage to the cable. Below the panel there had been a receptacle. The wire that fed the receptacle was there, but the receptacle was not. This wire was at a height off the floor consistent with typical receptacle height. The fire damage in the wall cavity was most severe from the receptacle location up to the top of the wall, less severe below the receptacle. The wire was severely damaged, due to the extent of the damage it could not be determined if there was evidence of arcing as the ends had melt damage from fire exposure. A receptacle has a ground

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strap and two bus bars, one for the hot side and one for the neutral. These components were not found during the excavation of the scene. This receptacle was the first on the circuit from the panel. There were at least four other receptacles along the first-floor wall found. The next receptacle downstream had severe fire damage, but the ground strap and bus bars were intact with no evidence of failure. The rest of the receptacles found had smoke damage and still had face plates attached. They also had protected areas that indicate there were items plugged in at the time of the fire. It should be noted that even if there is a receptacle in a circuit that does not have anything plugged into it and current draw from downstream receptacles will pass current through it. Further, the receptacle closest to the circuit panel will show the full current draw on the circuit. (Fire Findings: Volume 1 N1 Page 6)

40. In the northwest corner on both the north wall and the west wall there had been windows. The fire department reported fire coming from these windows upon their arrival. The window in the north wall had been consumed leaving the wall framing for the opening. The window on the west wall had the top of the frame side pieces and the top frame piece burned away. The rest of this frame had decreasing damage moving toward the bottom or sill portion of the frame. The damage to these windows was consistent with fire breaching the glass and venting out the window.
41. Also found in the northwest corner of the building on the exterior were four air conditioner condensers. Three had minor to no damage. The fourth had moderate damage due to drop down of burning debris. All four were connected to circuit breaker panels mounted to the west wall. All breakers were in the "on" position and were un-damaged. Behind the condensers there was a real estate "for sale" sign that was un-damaged.
42. The west side of the building faced a wooded area with a hill that descended to the rear of several businesses on Bald Hill Road. This area was examined for evidence of a brush or woodland fire. There was no evidence of a fire in the wooded area found. There was only minor damage to tree branches closest to the building.

Witness Information

43. During the process of this investigation witnesses, reporting parties and other persons of interest to this case were contacted or interviewed. The contact information of persons contacted or interviewed during this investigation is contained in the attached incident report and case file.
44. Several tenants were interviewed on 11 May 2021 by Investigator Morris and Investigator Choiniere, refer to their supplemental narratives for details.
45. On 12 May 2021 I spoke to Anthony Del Toro (suite H) and Anthony Amalfetano (suite G). Del Toro has a general law practice involving personal injury, estate planning and probate matters. He stated he has had no issues with utilities or the electrical system in his suite. He is rarely in his office; he typically works from home and uses the office for client meetings primarily.
46. Amalfetano stated he is a probate judge in Warwick. He has had no issues in his suite.

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47. On 20 May 2021 I interviewed John Shekarchi. Mr. Shekarchi occupied the units along the west end of the building. The space his office occupied was originally two suites (C & D). He had purchased the space in January 2021 from Greg Shadone. Mr. Shekarchi stated he had not had any issues with the electrical system or any utilities. He had mentioned to Investigator Choiniere in a previous conversation that his computer server had been hacked and ransom ware was installed. I asked him about that. He stated that on Monday 3 May when he went to his Lincoln office the ransom ware was discovered. He contacted his IT person and did not open the encrypted ransom email. Mr. Shekarchi stated approximately 147k files were effected, the server was dumped, and his files were recovered from his backup in the cloud. I asked if he knew of anyone that would light this fire intentionally and he stated he did not. Mr. Shekarchi is an attorney, his practice is real estate and development. He has had no issues with any transactions handled by his firm. I also confirmed with him that the entry door on the north side of the building does not lock. He stated there was a problem with the lock and there were plans to replace the door. Mr. Shekarchi stated he does not store his paper files at this location, his paper file storage in in his Lincoln office. While with Mr. Shekarchi he called his paralegal, Lydia Fernandez. Lydia was the last person out of suite C on Tuesday 11 May. She stated she left at approximately 18:15 and did not notice anything unusual.
48. On 20 May 2021 I also interviewed Joseph Shekarchi. Mr. Shekarchi is the current Speaker of the Rhode Island House of Representatives and an attorney. He stated his law practice is that of administrative law. This encompasses real estate, zoning, local permits and licenses. I asked if there had been any issues within the scope of his law practice that would lead him to believe this fire was intentionally set. I also asked if in his position as Speaker, was there anything that would lead him to believe this fire was intentionally set. He stated in his law practice he had problems with critics of a medical waste disposal facility he had been representing. He also stated as the Speaker he has many critics, but this all seemed part of politics.
49. On 26 May 2021 I spoke with Tom Paliotte, Tom is a paralegal for Atty. Michael Riley and has an office in suite C. Riley's firm handles real estate law. Tom stated he left the office at approximately 17:15-17:45. He had worked in the office all day; he did not notice anything unusual during the day and stated there had been no issues with the electrical system or utilities that he was aware of. I asked if any reason to believe anyone would intentionally set this fire. He stated there were no issues with any transactions handled by Riley's firm.

Miscellaneous Information

50. The Warwick Police Department is gathering surveillance video from the surrounding businesses along Bald Hill Rd. This video will be analyzed by them to determine if anyone entered or left the area of College Hill Road via the wooded area behind the College Hill buildings. Refer to Warwick Police Department's report for details.
51. Video was collected by Investigator Morris from 33 College Hill Rd Bldg. 33. The camera view captures

the parking area of this building and across the complex. Building 15 where the fire occurred is visible. This video showed an employee of Avatar Residential leaving that office at approximately 21:08, at that time there is no fire visible. The next video it records is fire at building 15 at approximately 21:43. Refer to Investigator Morris' supplemental narrative for further details.

Origin Determination

52. The following hypotheses regarding the origin of this fire were tested and either rejected or accepted.
53. A fire originating on the exterior of the building. This hypothesis was tested and rejected because the witness observations, fire patterns, fire dynamics and electrical survey do not support this scenario.
54. A fire originating inside the building in the northwest quadrant of the building. This hypothesis was tested and accepted because the witness observations, fire patterns and fire dynamics support this scenario.
- a) Based on observations of fire patterns, witness observations, electrical survey and fire dynamics I established the area of origin for this fire to be on the first floor in the northwest quadrant of the building.

Final Fire Spread Hypothesis

- b) Based on the observations and information gathered in the course of this investigation the final fire spread hypothesis is a fire originated on the first floor in the northwest quadrant of the building. The fire spread up and out breaching the windows in the northwest corner spreading fire up the exterior of the building into the roof soffits and attic space.

Cause Analysis

55. During this investigation, efforts were conducted to identify the various ignition sources within the area of origin.
56. Several competent pre-fire condition ignition sources within the area of origin were identified.
57. Electrical service panel for the unit.
58. Electrical receptacles in the unit.
- a) Electrical appliances. (i.e. Computers, microwave, coffee pot)
- b) Air conditioning condensers.
- c) Electrical shut offs for the air conditioner condensers.
- d) During this investigation, efforts were made to identify the available fuels sources in the area of origin.
- e) Available fuels sources identified in the area of origin were:

NARRATIVE FOR FIRE INVESTIGATOR JAMES P GIVEN

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59. Structural wood components of the building.

60. Carpeting

a) Furniture: table and office chairs.

b) Combustible components of electrical wiring and

c) The following hypotheses regarding the cause of this fire were tested and either rejected or accepted.

d) A fire due to a fault/malfunction of the air conditioning condensers. This hypothesis was tested and rejected because the witness observations, electrical survey, fire patterns and fire dynamics did not support this scenario. If there had been a fault/malfunction of the air conditioner condensers there would have been more severe damage to the units and the adjacent combustibles.

61. A fire due to a fault/malfunction with the electrical shut offs for the air conditioning condensers. This hypothesis was tested and rejected because the witness observations, electrical survey, fire patterns and fire dynamics did not support this scenario. If there had been a fault/malfunction of the electrical shut offs there would have been more severe damage to the units to include but not limited to arcing of the electrical wiring, damage to the circuit breakers and/or the adjacent combustibles.

a) A fire due to a fault/malfunction of electrical appliances in this unit. This hypothesis was tested and could not be eliminated. Although the computers, microwave, coffee pot, printers and other electrical appliances were reported by this unit's occupants to be outside the area of origin for this fire, these items were not recovered due to the extensive damage to the building as a result of this fire.

b) A fire due to a fault/malfunction with the electrical service panel. This hypothesis was tested and could not be eliminated. Due to the extensive damage to the interior components of this panel a complete and accurate exam could not be conducted.

c) A fire due to a fault/malfunction of the electrical receptacle below the service panel. This hypothesis was tested and could not be eliminated. The fire patterns, effects and fire dynamics analyzed are consistent with failure of this receptacle.

The wiring that fed the receptacle was there however the outlet box and the components of the receptacle were not recovered, therefore a full exam of the receptacle could not be conducted.

d) A fire due to an intentional act. This hypothesis was tested and could not be eliminated. The entry door on the north side of the building was unsecured. Entry through this door provided access to the entire building, there are no surveillance cameras facing this side of the building therefore it could not be determined if an individual or individuals entered the building and ignited this fire.

Evidence Collected

e) Items of potential evidentiary value were located and documented during the course of the investigation. Items of potential evidentiary value that were collected, were identified, preserved, collected, packaged and submitted as outlined in the general requirements for submitting evidence to the Rhode Island State Crime Laboratory and NFPA 921. Collected items were labeled and cataloged in the attached case file.

f) Photographs

Ignition Source

62. Based on the observations and information gathered during this investigation the ignition source is unknown at this time.

First Fuel Ignited

- a) Based on the observations and information gathered during this investigation the first fuel ignited is unknown at this time.

Cause of the Fire

63. Based on the observations and information gathered during this investigation the circumstances or sequence of events that brought the ignition source and first fuel ignited together is undetermined.

Insurance Information

64. Building Owner: College Park Condo Association
65. Insurance Company: Merrimack Mutual Fire Insurance
a) Address: 95 Old River Rd. Andover, MA.
i) Phone:

- ii) Tenant/Occupant/Victim: Insurance Company

John Shekarchi: The Hartford
Joseph Shekarchi: Main Street America
Mary Shekarchi
Anthony Amalfetano
Timothy Morgan
Anthony Del Toro: NLC Insurance
Anyia Martira: EMC Insurance
James Caruolo
Erin Falls: Quincy Mutual

References

- iii) *NFPA 72 National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code*. (2016) 1 Battery Park, Quincy, MA 02169-7471: National Fire Protection Association

- b) *NFPA 101 Life Safety Code*. (2015) 1 Battery Park, Quincy, MA 02169-7471: National Fire Protection

Association

66. *NFPA 220, Standard on Types of Building Construction*. (2015) 1 Battery Park, Quincy, MA 02169-7471:
National Fire Protection Association
67. *NFPA 921, Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations*, (2017) 1 Battery Park, Quincy, MA 02169-7471:
National Fire Protection Association
68. *Fire Findings*, Volume 1 Number 1 Page 6

James P. Given, IAAI-CFI, NAFL-CFEI, CVFI
Deputy State Fire Marshal

The above report reflects the findings of this investigation as conducted to date. This investigator retains the right to alter or amend the report should new information become available.

ACCELERANT DETECTION CANINE TEAM SEARCH NARRATIVE

Ref: 21SFM-110-OF

On 5/12/21 at approximately 0830 hours, the Accelerant Detection Canine Team consisting of myself, Investigator Hannah Burnes, and Accelerant Detection Canine "Dream" was assigned to assist in the investigation of a fire incident at 33 College Hill Road in the City of Warwick. Accelerant Detection Canine "Dream" is an approximately three year old female yellow Labrador Retriever, assigned to the Rhode Island Office of the State Fire Marshal. She has been trained and certified as an Accelerant Detection Canine by the Connecticut Forensics Laboratory.

Upon arrival I met with Investigators Given, Morris and Choiniere of this office. I was informed that the structural integrity of the building was compromised and no interior access was possible. Heavy equipment had been requested and responded to assist in the excavation. I conducted a scene examination and noted that the rear of the building had collapsed. Debris from this area of the structure would be removed to an adjacent parking area. The parking area was searched with the accelerant detection canine prior to debris removal and determined to be clear of ignitable liquids.

It was requested that the Accelerant Detection Canine Team search the debris as it was removed from the building.

On 5/12/21, the Accelerant Detection Canine Team conducted several searches of the described areas for the possible presence of ignitable liquids. Accelerant Detection Canine "Dream" was calibrated using one drop of partially evaporated gasoline. "Dream" alerted to the control sample prior to and after working the scene.

During the search by Accelerant Detection Canine "Dream", she exhibited no positive alerts for the presence of ignitable liquids.

SUPPLEMENTAL NARRATIVE FOR FIRE INVESTIGATOR KEVIN P MORRIS

Ref: 21SFM-110-OF

Supplemental Report

21SFM-110-OF

12 May 2021

1. During the process of this investigation witnesses, reporting parties and other persons of interest to this case were contacted or interviewed. The contact information of persons contacted or interviewed during this investigation is contained in the attached incident report and case file.
2. An interview was conducted on 12 May 2021 at 33 College Hill Rd., Warwick, Avatar Residential. The interview was with Raymond Memery. This is a synopsis of the interview.
 - a) Mr. Memery stated that he was waiting for someone to call on them because they have video surveillance cameras on the side door overlooking the parking area.
 - b) Mr. Memery stated that he had looked at the video of the night before and that he saw Kevin McKenna exiting the building at 9:08pm and that the next thing that he saw on the video at 9:43pm is the fire and smoke from a building across from their office.
 - c) Mr. Memery made the videos available to investigators at that point.
3. An Interview was conducted on 12 May 2021 at 33 College Hill Rd., Warwick at Avatar Residential. The interview was with Kevin McKenna. This is a synopsis of the interview.
 - a) Mr. McKenna stated that he was at work on the evening of the fire until about 9pm
 - b) Mr. McKenna stated that he left through the side door and went to his car.
 - c) Mr. McKenna stated that he had a smoke and got into his car and left the area.
 - d) Mr. McKenna stated that when he left the area that he did not see or smell anything in the area.

Mr. McKenna stated that he did not see anyone around when he left the area.

SUPPLEMENTAL NARRATIVE FOR FIRE INVESTIGATOR TRACI CHOINIÈRE

Ref: 21SFM-110-OF

On 5/11/2021 at approximately 2310 I conducted a voluntary interview with Mary Shekarchi DOB 09/18/1965. She stated that she had been in her office (on the second floor left) working until approximately 8-815pm. She stated that she did the same routine as she does every night when she leaves. She checks the bathrooms to make sure the fans are not left on, on both her floor and the first floor. She locked the door when she left. She did not see anything or smell anything out of the ordinary.

On 5/11/2021 at approximately 2315 I conducted a voluntary interview with Donny Bernardo DOB 07/31/1978. He stated he was at the car wash directly across from McDonalds on Bald Hill Road, Warwick with his son washing his car. He saw something out of the corner of his eye and when he turned to look, he said it looked like the trees were on fire behind McDonalds, there was alot of fire. He called 911, and when the fire department arrived they realized it was coming from College Park.

On 5/11/2021 at approximately 2325, I conducted a voluntary interview with Carol Fraser DOB 09/16/1963. She works in building 30 (which is across from building 15. Carol stated she was working and heard what she thought was thunder, so she went to the window to see if it was lightening out. When she got to the window she saw the rear of the building on fire. She ran back to her desk to call 911. She stated when speaking with 911, they asked if this was the fire on Bald Hill Rd., she stated no it was in College Park, and saw the first arriving engine company pull in.

**** Portions of this report have been redacted ****