

Final Fire Investigation Report

Incident Location: 123 Main Street, Springfield

Date of Incident: January 10, 2025

Report Date: January 20, 2025

Investigating Officer: Fire Marshal Jane Doe

Incident Overview:

On January 10, 2025, at approximately 7:45 PM, the Springfield Fire Department was dispatched to a reported structure fire at 123 Main Street. Upon arrival, firefighters observed heavy smoke and flames emanating from the rear section of the single-story residential property. The fire was brought under control by 8:30 PM, with crews remaining on the scene until 10:15 PM to extinguish hot spots and conduct a preliminary investigation.

No occupants were present in the home at the time of the fire. One neighboring property sustained minor heat damage to its siding. There were no injuries to civilians or fire personnel.

Scene Examination:

The investigation commenced immediately following fire suppression efforts. A systematic examination of the property revealed that the fire originated in the kitchen area, specifically near the stove. Extensive fire damage was noted in this area, with charring patterns indicating a high-intensity fire. Smoke and heat damage extended to adjoining rooms, though the fire did not breach the roof structure.

Evidence collected included:

1. Remnants of a portable cooking appliance near the stove.
2. Electrical wiring fragments exhibiting signs of arcing.
3. A melted plastic container containing an accelerant-like odor.

Witness Statements:

Interviews were conducted with neighbors who reported seeing flames through the kitchen window and called 911. One neighbor, John Smith, stated he observed the homeowner leaving the property approximately two hours before the fire was reported. No other suspicious activity was noted in the vicinity.

Cause Determination:

The fire was determined to have originated from unattended cooking equipment. The portable cooking appliance found near the stove was likely left on, leading to an overheating event that ignited nearby combustible materials.

Further analysis of the melted container indicated the presence of cooking oil, which likely contributed to the rapid spread of the fire in the kitchen. There was no evidence of foul play or intentional ignition.

Conclusions:

Based on the evidence collected, witness statements, and fire patterns observed, the fire has been

classified as accidental. The likely cause was unattended cooking equipment, exacerbated by the presence of flammable cooking oil.

Recommendations:

1. The property owner should ensure that cooking equipment is always monitored when in use.
2. Consideration should be given to installing a kitchen fire suppression system or portable fire extinguisher to mitigate similar incidents in the future.
3. Community outreach programs should emphasize the dangers of unattended cooking and provide fire safety education.

Prepared by:

Jane Doe

Fire Marshal

Springfield Fire Department