



# North Dakota Office of the State Fire Marshal (ND)

## INCIDENT REPORT

Official Law Enforcement Report - Unauthorized Dissemination is Prohibited

Incident Type: Fire / Undetermined

Agency Incident ID: NDSFM25-005

BATS ID: 1543588

Investigation Title: ROGERS JONES FIRE



### Incident Date/Time/Location

#### Status

Investigation Closed

#### Jurisdiction

Primary

#### Start Date/Time

1/23/2025 11:21 Thursday

#### Address

2251 109th Ave

#### City/State/Zip

Rogers, ND 58479

#### County

Barnes County

### Investigator Information

#### Name

Andrew J Browne

#### Phone

701-720-9264

#### Email

abrowne@nd.gov

#### Title

Deputy State Fire Marshal

### Property Use or Target Information

#### Type

Residential

#### Subtype

1 (Single Family) or 2 Family Dwelling

#### Status

Occupied And Operating



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## Scene Details

## Miscellaneous Information

### Latitude

47.089020

### Longitude

-98.195464



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### Person/Organization Information

#### Name

JONES, MARY JO

#### DOB

1955

#### Sex

F

#### Juvenile

No

#### Relationship(s)

Owner

#### Race

White

#### Ethnicity

Non-Hispanic

#### Age at time of Incident

69

### Address Information

#### Street Address

2251 20109TH AVE SE

#### City/State/Zip

ROGERS, ND 58479

#### County

BARNES

### Contact Information

#### Primary Phone

701-460-9815



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### Name

WIELAND, ROBERT A

### DOB

1970

### Sex

M

### Juvenile

No

### Relationship(s)

Discovering Party

### Address Information

#### Street Address

#### City/State/Zip

#### County

### Contact Information

#### Primary Phone

### Race

Undetermined

### Ethnicity

Unknown

### Age at time of Incident

54



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## Attachments

### Filename

### Description

### Date

NDSFM25-005-1 ROGERS  
JONES FIRE.pdf

2/12/2025

No image specified



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## Narrative(s)

### Title

Opening Report

### Author

Andrew Browne

7017209264

abrowne@nd.gov

### Description

A fire occurred in a single-family dwelling two story structure with a basement.

Distribution Via Email Only:

Sargent Steve Loibil, Barnes County Sheriff's Office, sloibl@nd.gov

Fire Chief Daryl Kunze, Dazey Fire Department, emtkoot@yahoo.com



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**Agency Incident ID:** NDSFM25-005

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Investigator/Agent - Browne, Andrew

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Date

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Approving Official

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Date



**North Dakota State Fire Marshals Office (ND)**  
**INCIDENT ORIGIN & CAUSE NARRATIVE**  
**Official Law Enforcement Report – Unauthorized Dissemination is Prohibited**



**Incident Type: Fire/Arson**

**Agency Incident ID: NDSFM25-006-1**

**BATS ID: i-1543588**

**Investigation Title: ROGERS JONES FIRE**

**Identify the Need**

**Call for service (dispatch, request, date, time):**

On January 23, 2025, at approximately 1:00pm, I Deputy State Fire Marshal Andrew Browne was contacted by the deputy on call Kristin Greaney-Stanger regarding that a fire investigation was being requested by the Barnes County Sheriff's Office. I contacted Sergeant Steve Loibl of the Barnes County Sheriff's Office to discuss the request.

During the conversation it was agreed that I would respond immediately.

**North Dakota Century Code 18-01-07 states; "An investigation of each fire must be made by the officers required to report the occurrence of fires under section 18-01-06."**

**Define the Problem**

**Nature of Incident/incident overview:**

On Thursday, January 23, 2025, at 11:21 am, the Dazey Fire Department was dispatched to a single-family residential structure fire at 2251 109<sup>th</sup> Ave SE, Rogers, ND. Upon arrival of the fire department the structure was fully involved, and the roof had collapsed. (See Figure 1)



*Figure 1 Photograph DSC\_0004.JPG South Exterior Wall From Driveway Facing North*



**Authority to Enter/Search:**

I arrived on scene at approximately 3:10 pm and met Sergeant Loibl to give me a briefing of the scene. The Dazey Fire Department was still actively extinguishing the fire upon my arrival.

I contacted property owner Mary Jones via telephone and read a Consent to Search Form over the telephone. Mary Jones verbally agreed to the Consent to Search Form and had no questions. Sergeant Loibl witnessed the conversation and signed the Consent to Search Form. Prior to disconnecting the telephone call, I provided Mary Jones with a safety briefing.

At approximately 4:39 pm I departed the scene. Fire department and law enforcement remained on scene extinguishing the fire at my departure. Sergeant Loibl stated Sergeant Loibl would contact Mary Jones to release the scene once the fire department cleared.

**Assisting Persons/Agencies:**

Name	Agency	Case Reference if Available
Sergeant Steve Loibl	Barnes County Sheriff's Office	
Daryl Kunze	Dazey Fire Department	

**Fatalities/Injuries:**

Name	Fatality/Injury:	Notes/Other Information:
		No injuries or fatalities were reported to the North Dakota State Fire Marshal's Office.



**North Dakota State Fire Marshals Office (ND)**  
**INCIDENT ORIGIN & CAUSE NARRATIVE**  
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**Investigation Title: ROGERS JONES FIRE**

**Data Collection**

**Drawings/Sketches:**

No diagram or sketch was completed for this incident due to the extent of damage to the structure.

**Photographs:**

Prior to physically altering the fire scene, the fire scene was photographed in the condition it was found. During the investigation a series of 28 photographs were taken. The photographs and photograph log will remain the file.

**Exterior Scene Examination:**

My examination of the fire scene began on the exterior south side and continued in a clockwise direction. A Scene Safety Assessment Form was complete during my initial walkthrough and will remain with the file.

The structure was an occupied two-story residential structure with a basement. There was an addition on the northeast corner of the structure. The structure had a shingled roof. The exterior had painted wood siding, and the roof peak ran north/south.

The transformer on the power pole was on the northwest corner of the property. The power pole and meter did not have any damage noticed. The electrical service entered the structure through an underground lateral on the west side of the structure. I observed the main breaker in the off position. Propane tank was on the southwest corner of the property. An underground lateral from the propane tank entered the structure on the west side of the structure. I observed the propane tank in the off position.

Most of the south wall was consumed and collapsed. The lower brick skirting of the wall was intact. Noncombustible remains of stored items were visible along the south wall. The noncombustible remains of household items were warped and oxidized. There was active fire and smoldering visible. There was a wooden deck that extended from the south exterior wall with a wooden ramp that extended from the west of the deck that was intact. (See Figure 2)



*Figure 2 Photograph DSC\_0005.JPG South Exterior Wall Facing North*

Most of the west wall had collapsed to the exterior. The structural remains had comparable charring throughout. Most of the combustible material contents were consumed. Noncombustible remains of household items were visible along the west wall. The noncombustible remains were warped and oxidized. There was active fire and smoldering visible. In the northwest corner of the west wall was a wooden deck that extended from the west wall. The wooden deck was still intact. (See Figure 3)



*Figure 3 Photograph DSC\_0008.JPG West Exterior Wall Facing Northeast*

Most of the north wall was upright with the mass loss along the west wall, area closet to the deck/steps extending up to the roof peak. There was a window in approximately the center of the wall. The glass was no longer in place and the wood frame had charring on the upper portion. There was active fire and smoldering visible. Most of the combustible materials of stored items were consumed. The noncombustible materials of household items were oxidized and warped. (See Figure 4)





*Figure 4 Photograph DSC\_0012.JPG North Exterior Wall Facing South*

Most of the east wall was consumed. Most of the combustible materials were consumed. Noncombustible remains were visible along the east wall. The noncombustible remains were warped and oxidized. There was active fire and smoldering visible. (See Figure 5)



*Figure 5 Photograph DSC\_0016.JPG East Exterior Wall Facing North*



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**Interior Scene Examination:**

Due to collapse and active fire and smoldering throughout, the area could not be accessed safely. The interior examination was limited to what was visible from the exterior.

Most of the structure and contents were consumed. Remains of noncombustible materials were warped and oxidized throughout. The main level floor was intact. The consumed contents were supported by the main level floor. The basement foundation was intact.

**Interview #1:**

**Name:** Mary Jones

**Interview Date:** January 24, 2025

**Notes:** Mary Jones was the property owner. The following are notes from an informational interview with Mary Jones. The interview took place over the telephone and was done voluntarily. The interview was non-custodial and not recorded.

Mary Jones stated Mary Jones had owned the property since 2013. Mary Jones stated that Mary Jones does not have a mortgage or lien on the property. Mary Jones stated Mary Jones paid off a mortgage on the property in either 2016 or 2017. Mary Jones stated Mary Jones does not have any insurance on the property.

Mary Jones explained the layout of the property. Mary Jones stated on the south exterior wall was an entryway that led into a living room area. Mary Jones stated along the west wall in the northwest corner was an entryway that led into a common entry room. Mary Jones stated along the northern half of the main level was a kitchen area. Mary Jones stated in the northeast corner was an addition with a bedroom on the main level. Mary Jones stated the basement was unfinished and the foundation was "crumbling". Mary Jones stated the upstairs was a common hallway that ran west/east and in there was three bedrooms and a bathroom. Mary Jones stated the siding was wood and had asphalt shingles.

Mary Jones stated no recent work, or additions were done to the structure. Mary Jones was not aware of any issues related to electrical or lights flickering/dimming within the structure. Mary Jones stated Mary Jones did not smell smoke or similar odor the day of the fire or days leading up to the fire during the same week. Mary Jones stated Mary Jones did not hear any unusual noises the day of the fire or days leading up to the fire during the same week.

Mary Jones stated that on Sunday, January 19, 2025, during the afternoon Mary Jones arrived at home and noticed that Mary Jones house was cold and noticed the furnace was not running. Mary Jones stated Mary Jones contacted Keith's Plumbing and Heating and they came out on the evening of Sunday, January 19, 2025, to look at the furnace. Mary Jones stated Keith's Plumbing and Heating looked into the matter and determined the furnace was froze due to an opening in a window and suggested that the furnace thaw out and would come back out at a later time. Mary Jones stated that Mary Jones boarded up the window. Mary Jones stated that Mary Jones put six space heaters in the residence at temporary heating until the furnace issues could be resolved. Mary Jones stated there were three space heaters in the basement with one plugged directly into a basement outlet and two that were powered from the main level by separate 12-gauge extension cords. In addition, on the main level there were three space heaters that were directly plugged into outlets in the kitchen, bathroom, and bedroom. Mary Jones did not know specific brands of the space heaters other than one in the basement was a radiator type and the one in the bedroom was tall. Mary Jones stated the 12-gauge extension cords were purchased at Menards.

Mary Jones stated on Monday, January 20, 2025, a breaker had tripped at the electrical panel shutting off one of the space heaters in the basement. Mary Jones stated Mary Jones reset the breaker at the panel. In addition, on Tuesday, January 21, 2025, Mary Jones stated the kitchen space heater turned off and went to the electrical panel and observed the breaker had tripped for that one. Mary Jones stated Mary Jones reset the breaker at that time.



On Thursday, January 23, 2025, Mary Jones left for work at approximately 5:00 am. Mary Jones did not see, hear, or smell anything out of the ordinary at that time. Mary Jones stated that Mary Jones learned of the fire from a co-worker who is on the Dazey Fire Department while at work at approximately 11:30 am.

Mary Jones was not a smoker. Mary Jones stated no one smokes within the structure and lives alone with one dog and two cats who perished during the fire. Mary Jones stated Mary Jones did not light the fire. Mary Jones stated Mary Jones is unaware of any enemies or anyone upset with Mary Jones.

Mary Jones was asked what Mary Jones thought might have started the fire and Mary Jones stated Mary Jones believes one of the space heaters. Mary Jones stated that Mary Jones has not had any structure fires in the past. The only fire that Mary Jones was related to was an SUV fire approximately two years ago that occurred on Mary Jones property.

This concluded my interview with Mary Jones.

#### **Interview #2:**

**Name:** Robert Wieland

**Interview Date:** January 27, 2025

**Notes:** Robert Wieland was the 911 caller that reported the fire. The following are notes from an informational interview with Robert Wieland. The interview took place over the telephone and was done voluntarily. The interview was non-custodial and not recorded.

Robert Wieland stated on January 23, 2025, at approximately 11:20 am, Robert Wieland was traveling northbound on Highway 1 when Robert Wieland observed smoke coming from a house along the west side of the highway from the roof and attic. Robert Wieland stated Robert Wieland turned around at the intersection of Highway 1 and Highway 9 and went back to look further into why there was smoke coming from the structure. Robert Wieland stated Robert Wieland noticed the smoke did not look right. Robert Wieland turned into the driveway and observed the structure was still standing and there was smoke coming from the attic and roof. Robert Wieland stated that Robert Wieland did not get close to the house because Robert Wieland observed a propane tank on the property. Robert Wieland called in the fire to 911 and remained on scene until law enforcement arrived.

Robert Wieland did not see anything suspicious, and Robert Wieland stated at first Robert Wieland thought the house was abandon due to the deteriorating condition it was in. Robert Wieland stated the driveway appeared to have vehicle tire tracks that indicated someone coming and going that might have lived there.

Robert Wieland did not see any flames or know where the fire might have started.

This concluded my interview with Robert Wieland.

#### **Video:**

No video was obtained from this fire investigation.

#### **Weather Reviewed:**

The weather information was obtained from [www.wunderground.com](http://www.wunderground.com), Weather Underground. The data was review for January 23, 2025, for Rogers, ND. The closest reporting station was the Jamestown Regional Airport Station, which is approximately 40 miles away. The weather information was review from the times of 5:00 am until 12:00 pm. The following weather information was learned.

Temperature: -6 Degrees Fahrenheit to 9 Degrees Fahrenheit

Humidity: 83% to 91%

Wind Direction: NW to WNW

Wind Speed: 3 mph to 6 mph

Wind Gusts: 0 mph

Conditions: Fair to Mostly Cloudy

[Jamestown, ND Weather History | Weather Underground](http://www.wunderground.com/history/daily/ND/Jamestown)

The weather did not factor in the fire ignition and spread.



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**Times:**

Hard Time Description	Time	Soft Time Description
	5:00 am	Property owner left for work.
Time of 911 Call from Call for Service	11:21 am	
Fire Dept Enroute from Call for Service	11:26 am	
Fire Dept on Scene from Call for Service	11:35 am	
Requesting Fire Marshal from Call for Service	12:37 am	
Fire Marshal on Scene from Call for Service	3:10 pm	

**Evidence identified/collected/preserved:**

No evidence was collected by the State Fire Marshal's Office. No areas were marked with warning this may be evidence during the on-scene examination.

**Data Analysis, hypothesis development, hypothesis testing, select final hypothesis**

**Other Forms/Documents/Reports Reviewed:**

**Barnes County Sheriff's Office Call for Service: Incident # 202500000379**

- 911 caller was Bob Wieland
- Time of call was 11:21 am on January 23, 2025.
- 911 caller Bob Wieland reported the roof was smoking and the house appeared to be abandoned.
- There was two cats and one dog inside the house downstairs.
- Cass County Electric reporting power off to the structure.
- Rural was notified to shut off water.



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**Area of Origin:**

The determination of the area of origin was within the structure based upon the examination of the fire scene, data collected, and witness statement. The following information supports the area of origin.

**Fire Effects**

- The combustible structural materials were comparably charred throughout the structure.
- The noncombustible household materials were comparably oxidized and warped throughout the structure.
- Most of the stored items within the structure were consumed.

**Fire Dynamics**

- The structure had collapsed with most of the roofing material consumed.
  - Consistent with time and duration.
- Fire damage was limited to the structure and there was no fire damage extending to others structure.
  - Consistent with fire spread.

**Witness Statements**

- Passerby/911 caller reported smoke coming from the roof and attic of the structure.
- Passerby/911 caller reported the structure intact.
- Fire department reported the structure fully engulfed when arriving on scene.
- Fire department reported roof collapsed of the structure when arriving on scene.





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**Cause Hypothesis Development and Testing:**

Based on the systematic examination of the fire scene, data collected, and witness statements the area of origin was determined to be within the structure.

1. A person or persons unknown used an open flame to ignite ordinary combustible materials such as cardboard, paper, or cloth materials.
  - Property owner left for work at 5:00 am the day of the fire.
  - No signs of forcible entry reported by the fire department or law enforcement.
  - Property owner had no known enemies.
  - Structure was reported to be locked at time of the fire by property owner.
  - Property owner reported having no insurance on the property.
  - Property owner reported having \$10,000 cash within a safe inside the structure.
  - Property owner report having one dog and two cats inside the structure at the time of the fire.
  - 911 caller reported not seeing anything suspicious.
  - This hypothesis has been eliminated as the potential cause of the fire.
2. An electrical event created sufficient heat long enough to ignite ordinary combustible materials such as paper, wood, insulation, carpet, and plastic.
  - Property owner reported using space heaters temporary heating.
  - Property owner reported electrical breakers tripping days leading up to the fire.
  - Property owner reported there were six space heaters that were operating the day of the fire.
  - Two of the six space heaters were plugged into extension cords for power.
  - Three space heaters were in the basement of the structure.
  - Three space heaters were on the main level of the structure.
  - This hypothesis cannot be eliminated as the potential cause of the fire.
3. A malfunction with one of the six space heaters created sufficient heat long enough to ignite ordinary combustible materials such as paper, wood, insulation, carpet, plastic, blankets, or household combustible materials.
  - Property owner reported furnace went out on Sunday, January 19, 2025.
  - Property owner reported using six space heaters temporary heating.
  - Property owner reported electrical breakers tripping days leading up to the fire.
  - Property owner reported there were six space heaters that were operating the day of the fire.
  - Two of the six space heaters were plugged into extension cords for power.
  - Property owner did not know make or brands of the space heaters.
  - Three space heaters were in the basement of the structure.
  - Three space heaters were on the main level of the structure.
  - This hypothesis cannot be eliminated as the potential cause of the fire.



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**Final Hypothesis/Conclusion:**

Based on the examination of the fire scene, witness statements, and other data collected, the area origin was determined to be within the structure.

Due to the extensive damage to the structure and the inability to eliminate multiple hypothesis the cause of the fire remains undetermined.

This fire is classified as undetermined.

The opinions expressed in this conclusion are based on data and evidence collected to this point. The opinions are subject to change based upon relevant, significant and credible information discovered or provided in the future.

**References:**

Technical Committee on Fire Investigations. 2023. NFPA 921: Guide For Fire & Explosion Investigations. 2024 Edition. NFPA. Quincy, MA