



# 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: NDSFM25-010

BATS ID: 1544764

Investigation Title: BURLINGTON NELSON FIRE



### Incident Date/Time/Location

#### Status

Investigation Closed

#### Jurisdiction

Primary

#### Start Date/Time

2/3/2025 13:00 Monday

#### Address

8001 County Road W

#### City/State/Zip

Minot, ND 58703

#### County

Ward

### Investigator Information

#### Name

Jessica Sinerius

#### Phone

701-220-2762

#### Email

jsinerius@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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Person/Organization Information

Name

NELSON, LARRY

DOB

1949

Race

Ethnicity

Age at time of Incident

75

Juvenile

No

Relationship(s)

Occupant, Owner



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## Attachments

### Filename

### Description

### Date

NDSFM25-010-1 BURLINGTON  
NELSON FIRE.pdf

3/31/2025

No image specified



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NDSFM25-010 BURLINGTON  
NELSON FIRE Photograph  
Log.pdf

3/31/2025

**No image specified**



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## Narrative(s)

### Title

Contacts

### Author

Jessica Sinerius

7012202762

jsinerius@nd.gov

### Description

Distribution: Via Email Only: Fire Chief Karter Lesmann: katerbfd@hotmail.com



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Investigator/Agent - Sinerius, Jessica

Date

Approving Official

Date



# North Dakota State Fire Marshals Office (ND)

## INCIDENT ORIGIN & CAUSE NARRATIVE

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### Identify the Need

#### **Call for Service (dispatch, request, date, time):**

On Saturday, February 1, 2025, at approximately 12:30 PM, I, Deputy State Fire Marshal (DSFM) Jess Sinerius, was contacted by State Fire Marshal Doug Nelson regarding a residential structure fire that occurred in the Burlington Rural Fire Protection District. State Fire Marshal Doug Nelson requested that I contact Fire Chief Karter Lesmann of the Burlington Rural Fire Protection District on Monday morning to schedule a fire investigation.

On Monday, February 3, 2025, at approximately 7:30 AM, I contacted Fire Chief Karter Lesmann. During the conversation it was agreed that the fire scene investigation would begin on Monday, February 3, 2025, at approximately 1:00 PM.

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 Saturday, February 1, 2025, at 4:26 AM a fire was reported at 8001 County Road 15 W, Minot, ND 58703. The fire was reported by a neighbor. The fire was reported to be in a residential structure with an attached garage. The Burlington Rural Fire Protection District responded and extinguished the fire. No injuries or fatalities were reported to the State Fire Marshal's Office. (See Figure 1)





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*Figure 1 Photograph DSC\_0001.JPG Exterior North Side, Garage Consumption/Collapse*

The property owners were out of town at the time of the fire and were not scheduled to return until the evening of Monday, February 3, 2025. Upon extinguishing the fire, Fire Chief Karter Lesmann maintained control of the scene until my arrival.

#### **Authority to Enter/Search:**

On Monday, February 3, 2025, I arrived on scene at approximately 1:00 PM. Fire Chief Karter Lesmann was on scene. Fire Chief Karter Lesmann called property owner Larry Kent Nelson via cell phone. Larry Kent Nelson was placed on speaker phone. Larry Kent Nelson verbally agreed to the State Fire Marshal's Office to conduct an origin and cause investigation. Larry Kent Nelson did not have any questions or concerns. Fire Chief Karter Lesmann witnessed the conversation.

Upon completing the scene investigation, I released the scene back to the Burlington Rural Fire Protection District. I cleared the scene at approximately 3:00 PM





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Assisting Person/Agencies:		
Name	Agency	Case Reference if Available
Fire Chief Karter Lesmann; karterbfd@hotmail.com	Burlington Rural Fire Protection District	2025-18

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

### Data Collection

Photographs:
The fire scene was photographically documented in the condition it was found. During the scene examination a series of 185 photographs were taken. The photographs and photograph log will remain with the file.



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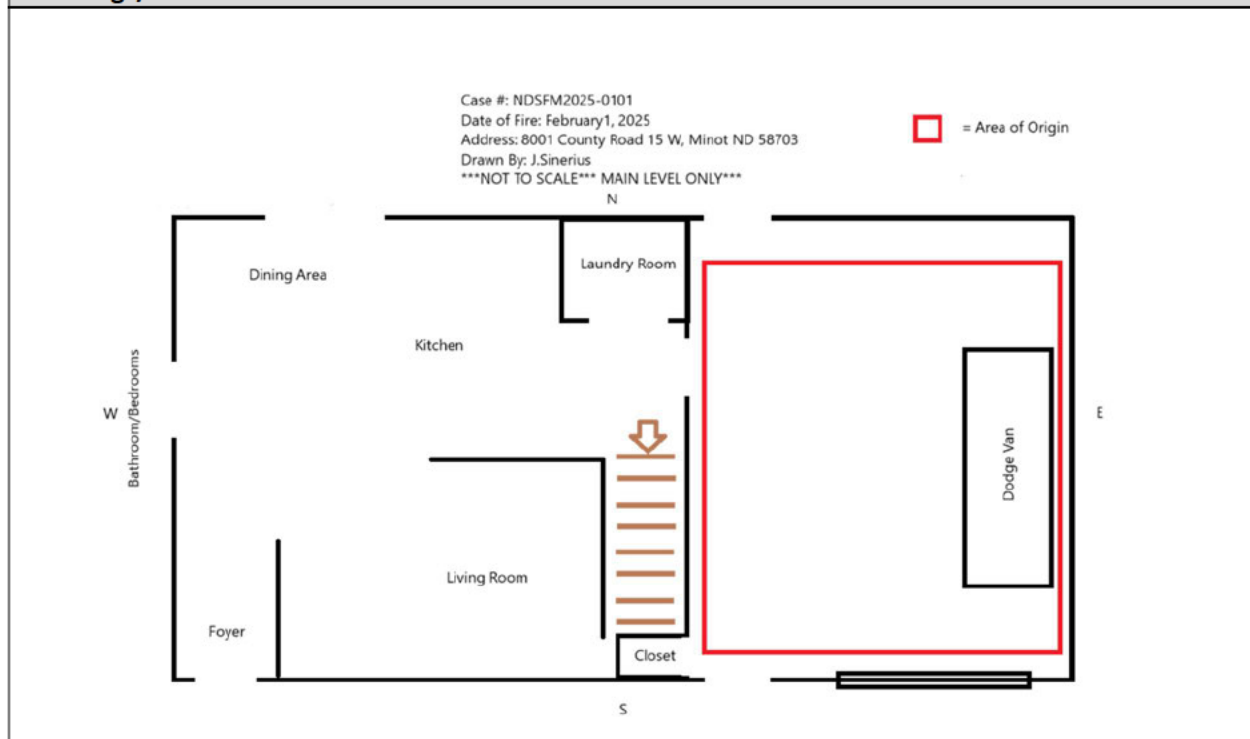
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### Drawings/Sketches:



### Exterior Scene Examination:

The structure was a single-story residential home with a basement. The house was oriented east/west with an attached garage on the east side. Most of the structural members of the garage were consumed or had collapsed exposing fire debris throughout the interior. The structure had painted wood siding and a shingled roof. The electrical service entered the structure from an underground lateral on the north side. The transformer, power pole, and weatherhead were east of the structure. No damage was noticed to the electrical service. A 1000-gallon propane container was northeast of the house. The valve was in the off position. No damage was noticed to the propane container, gas lines or regulators. The gauge on the propane container read 70% of the product remained.

My exterior scene examination began on the north side of the structure and continued around it in a counterclockwise direction.

The garage roof had collapsed to the interior. The garage north wall had collapsed to the exterior. The visible wall studs were charred and snow covered. The remains of an entry/exit door frame were along the shared wall between the garage and main residence. Most of the siding on the residential portion of the north wall remained intact. The roof



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had collapsed or was consumed as extension went from the garage to the west. The soffit, eave, and fascia had collapsed or was consumed in the area closest to the garage. As extension continued west, less collapse and consumption occurred to the roof assembly. Approximately the center of the remaining wall was an opening where the patio doors were. Snow and ice covered wood deck extended north from the opening. Fire debris was along the west end of the deck. (See Figure 2)



Figure 2 Photograph DSC\_0003.JPG Exterior North Side, Residential Portion, Deck, Roof Remains

Most of the siding on the west side remained intact. Most of the soffit had collapsed or was consumed. The fascia had an area of mass loss in the area closest to the peak. The basement windows remained intact.

The south side of the structure faced the driveway and had the main entrance. The screen door was open. The main door was removed and placed along the west side of the structure. The siding on the main residence remained intact with a small portion collapsed or removed above a window east of the main entrance. The soffit along the east portion of the main residence had collapsed. Soot deposits and discoloration were along the facial extending east to the garage. (See Figure 3)



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*Figure 3 Photograph DSC\_0015.JPG Exterior South Side, Main Entrance, Soffit/Facia Damage*

The south wall of the garage was consumed or had collapsed. The remains of an entry door frame remained along the shared wall of the garage and main residence. The door was no longer in place. The remains of an overhead door had collapsed along the south wall. The collapsed structural members were snow covered. (See Figure 4)





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*Figure 4 Photograph DSC\_0018.JPG Exterior South Side of Garage, Consumption/Collapse*

The exterior east wall of the garage had collapsed to the exterior. The structural remains were charred and snow covered.

No smoking paraphernalia was noticed throughout the exterior. No fuel cans or similar items were noticed throughout the exterior.

#### **Interior Scene Examination:**

The interior examination began in the area of least damage and continued to the area of greatest damage. During my initial safety walkthrough, it was determined that the basement was the area of least damage with the garage having the greatest damage.

Entry to the basement was made through the shared wall between the garage and main residence. Approximately the center of the wall was a doorway opening and to the south was the stairway leading to the basement. The staircase handrail at the top of the stairs had the greatest amount of charring compared to the rest of the handrail. The stairs were carpeted and covered with fire debris. Wood paneling was long the east wall of the staircase. The paneling remained intact.



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At the bottom of the stairs was a living room. Along the south wall was a sofa, recliner, coffee table, lamp and other miscellaneous furniture. A blue tarp covered the furniture along the west wall. Soot deposits were throughout the ceiling and extended approximately three feet down the south wall and west wall. Soot deposits and fire debris were noticed throughout the furniture.



Figure 5 Photograph DSC\_0037.JPG Basement Living Room, Furniture, Covered Furniture, Hallway

Along the north wall was a hallway leading to the west bedrooms, a mechanical room, and a bathroom.

Along the east wall was the staircase. This area sustained the greatest amount of damage compared to the rest of the basement. The remains of a sofa and miscellaneous storage were along the staircase. The back rest and upper portion of the sofa were consumed. The noncombustible remains of the sofa seat were visible. The remains of musical instruments were on the sofa and in front of the sofa. The cloth materials along the bottom front portion of the sofa remained. The staircase behind the sofa had wood paneling on the living room facing side. The paneling was charred throughout. The handrail facing the living room was charred extending to the top of the stairs. The structural support beam closest to the sofa had charring approximately two feet from the floor extending up to the ceiling. The area facing the sofa had the greatest amount of





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charring compared to the rest of the beam. Miscellaneous tools and an orange extension cord within proximity to the sofa. (See Figure 6)



*Figure 6 Photograph DSC\_0044.JPG Staircase, Sofa Remains, Wood Paneling Char, Charring on Handrail*

The bathroom was along the north wall in the area closest to the stairs. An extension cord was plugged into a receptacle beneath the stairs and extended into the bathroom. No devices or appliances were plugged into the cord. The insulation on the extension cord had some melting in the area closest to the receptacle. As extension went into the bathroom the melting decreased. The receptacle had discoloration but remained intact. Miscellaneous tools and a lamp were on the floor in front of the bathroom.

The bathroom was unfinished. A receptacle was on the west wall. A multiplug adaptor and a device similar to a cell phone charger were plugged into the receptacle. A fan was plugged into the multiplug adaptor. The receptacle items plugged into the receptacle remained intact. The plastic fan housing sustained some melting, but the line cord remained intact.

The mechanical room had miscellaneous storage, a forced air furnace, and a water tank. Soot deposits were throughout the walls and contents, but no other fire or heat damage was noticed. The electrical panels were along the north wall. The main breaker was in the off position.





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The hallway led to a storage room on the south and two bedrooms at the westernmost end of the hallway. The hallway, storage room, and the two bedrooms had soot deposits throughout the ceilings, walls and contents. Some ceiling tiles in each bedroom had collapsed but no other fire or heat damage was noticed.

At the top of the stairs, on the north wall was the laundry room. To the west was the kitchen area. Most of the ceiling and roof assembly had collapsed or was consumed. The contents were covered in fire debris and snow. The remains of the refrigerator were noticed along the south wall of the kitchen area. (See Figure 7)



Figure 7 Photograph DSC\_0106.JPG Top of Stairs, Kitchen Area

Due to the excessive fire debris, collapse and unstable footing, access through the kitchen was not made. Entry into the main level of the residence was made through the primary entrance on the south side.

Through the entry door was a foyer with a closet on the north wall. Some of the drywall on the walls had collapsed. The remaining drywall was calcinated throughout. The ceiling had collapse. The bottom chord to the roof trusses were visible. The upper portions of the trusses were consumed or had collapsed. East of the foyer was the living room. The ceiling and roof assembly in the living room had collapsed to the interior. Most of the combustible materials within the living room were consumed. Fire debris and remains of the roof assembly covered the foyer and living room contents.



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*Figure 8 Photograph DSC\_0120.JPG Living Room Area*

North of the living room was the kitchen and dining area. The kitchen area and dining area sustained comparable damage to the living room. Most of the roof assembly had collapsed or was consumed. The patio doors were no longer in place. The dining table and chairs were charred. (See Figure 9)





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*Figure 9 Photograph DSC\_0126.JPG Dining Area, Kitchen*

West of the dining area was a hallway that led to a closet, a bathroom, an office, and two bedrooms. The ceiling and most of the roof assembly had collapsed to the interior. Fire debris covered the hallway floor. The drywall on the hallway walls sustained the greatest calcination to the upper portion of the walls. The bathroom, office, and bedrooms sustained comparable damage. Most of the ceilings throughout the bathroom, office, and bedrooms had collapsed to the interior. More of the bottom chords to the trusses remained in the hallway and bedrooms compared to the living room and kitchen area. Fire debris covered the contents and floors. Most of the drywall on the walls remained intact but was calcinated.

The attached garage sustained the greatest amount of damage compared to the rest of the structure. Most of the garage roof had collapsed or was consumed. Most of the combustible materials within the garage were consumed. Due to structural collapse and extent of damage throughout the structure, not all electrical circuits could be fully evaluated. Noncombustible remains of various items were throughout the garage. Fire debris and snow covered the area. The north, south, and east walls were consumed or had collapsed. The east wall was shared with the main residence. Most of the drywall was calcinated with areas of collapse. The shared door between the garage and main residence was no longer in place. The noncombustible remains of a vehicle were along the east wall. The noncombustible remains of a refrigerator were along the north wall. (See Figure 10)



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Figure 10 Photograph DSC\_0021.JPG Garage, Roof Consumption/Collapse, Wall Consumption/Collapse, Noncombustible remains of Vehicle

Interview #1:	
Name:	Fire Chief Karter Lesmann
Interview Date:	February 3, 2025
<b>Notes:</b> The following notes are from an informational interview with Fire Chief Karter Lesmann of the Burlington Rural Fire Protection District.	
<p>Chief Lesmann stated that upon arrival all the doors were closed to the structure. Fire was extending from the roof in the area where the garage and main residence met. Moments after completing a 360 walkaround Chief Lesmann heard a loud “bang” in the garage and then the garage roof began to collapse to the interior. During the initial walkalong Chief Lesmann secured the propane container.</p>	
<p>Upon the arrival of the first engine, fire units established a defensive fire attack from the backside of the house, at the patio doors. Fire was spreading northwest into the main residence. Verendrye Electric arrived on scene and secured the electrical service; however, lights were still noticed in the mechanical room. Once entry was made, Chief Lesmann turned the main breaker in the electrical panel off.</p>	





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During salvage and overhaul, fire units tarped furniture and music equipment in the basement. Some personal items and guitars were removed from the home and placed in the detached garage.

Chief Karter stated that ambient temperatures were in the negatives and the wind was coming from the southeast.

### Interview #2:

**Name:** Larry Kent Nelson

**Interview Date:** February 5, 2025

**Notes:** Larry Kent Nelson is the owner and most recent occupant of the structure prior to the fire. The following are notes from an information interview with Larry Kent Nelson. The interview took place over the telephone and was not recorded. I informed Larry Kent Nelson that Larry Kent Nelson did not have to answer any questions. The interview was conducted voluntarily.

Larry Kent Nelson stated that Larry Kent Nelson and wife Carol Nelson left the residence Friday, January 31, 2025, at approximately 10:30 AM. The Nelsons went to Gillette Wyoming and did not plan on returning until Monday, February 3, 2025. The Nelson's went to Gillette Wyoming to watch their grandson play hockey on Saturday and Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025.

On Friday, prior to leaving the residence, the Nelson's did not cook and stated that upon leaving, the Nelson's turned off all the lights and locked the doors.

Prior to the fire, the Nelson's did not notice any unusual smells such as melting/burning paper or plastic. No electrical issues were noticed such as breakers tripping, lights flickering or diming. The gas furnace was approximately five years old. The propane container that serviced the furnace was last filled approximately two weeks prior to the fire. Tri N Propane filled the container. No issues with the furnace or propane service were noticed. No space heaters were in use. No lithium-ion batteries were being used or charged throughout the house or garage. Carol Nelson had unplugged the exterior Christmas lights prior to leaving.

The 2014 Dodge Caravan had been parked in the garage for approximately two days prior to Friday, January 31, 2025. A new alternator was installed on the van approximately one month prior to the fire. No issues were noticed with the van and no other recent maintenance had been done to the van.



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Carol Nelson had stained a cabinet approximately two weeks prior to the fire. The staining materials were put away in a bedroom used for storage on the main level of the home. No other staining had been done. The basement bathroom was being remodeled. The Nelson's son-in-law, Thomas (Tommy) Velazquez had been working on the bathroom for a few weeks prior to the fire. Thomas Velazquez had the keyless entry passcode to the residence. Thomas Velazquez was last known to be at the property on Saturday, February 1, 2025, until approximately 3:00 AM.

The Nelsons were nonsmokers and did not use candles or incense. Larry Kent Nelson stated that Thomas Velazques smoked cigarettes, but smoking was not allowed in the house, garage or vehicles.

Larry Kent Nelson did not have a mortgage and stated that the property taxes and insurance were current. Larry Kent Nelson had not made any recent changes to the insurance coverage and had not had any previous fires.

Larry Kent Nelson stated that the ring camera on the south side of the garage was not set to record. Larry Kent Nelson was notified of the fire on Saturday, February 1, 2025, by Fire Chief Karter Lesmann.

Larry Kent Nelson was unaware of any enemies or anyone that would want to intentionally damage their property. The Nelson's did not know what caused the fire.

### Interview #3:

**Name:** Thomas Velazquez

**Interview Date:** February 5, 2025

**Notes:** Thomas Velazquez was working on Larry and Carol Nelson's property prior to the fire. The following are notes from an information interview with Thomas Velazquez. The interview took place over the telephone and was not recorded. The interview was conducted voluntarily.

Thomas Velazquez stated that Thomas Velazquez was a self-employed tile installer. Thomas Velazquez had been remodeling the basement bathroom at the Nelson residence for a few weeks prior to the fire. Thomas Velazquez was at the Nelson residence on Friday, January 31, 2025, throughout the day. Thomas Velazquez went home for dinner at approximately 5:00 PM and returned to the Nelson property at approximately 8:00-9:30PM. Thomas Velazquez pulled Thomas Velazquez's truck into the left side of the garage.



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Thomas Velazquez stated that Thomas Velazquez was working late attempting to get the bathroom done by the time the Nelsons returned from Wyoming. Thomas Velazquez washed a load of laundry while at the residence. Thomas Velazquez did not notice any issues with the electrical service such as breakers tripping, lights flickering or dimming. Thomas Velazquez did not notice any unusual smells such as plastic or paper burning or melting. Thomas Velazquez did not use any battery-operated tools or notice any batteries on chargers. No candles or incense were being used.

Thomas Velazquez entered and exited the structure from the garage door on the south side. Thomas Velazquez stated that the garage was not heated so the door between the residence and garage was always closed. Once Thomas Velazquez's laundry was done, Thomas Velazquez pulled Thomas Velazquez's truck out of the garage. Prior to leaving the residence, Thomas Velazquez did a quick look around to make sure all the lights were off, and the doors were locked.

Thomas Velazquez did not have any enemies and stated that Thomas Velazquez was unaware of the Nelson's having any enemies. Thomas Velazquez did not know of anyone that would want to damage the Nelson's property or Thomas Velazquez work. Thomas Velazquez did not notice anyone around the property throughout the time Thomas Velazquez was working at the residence.

Thomas Velazquez was a smoker but only smoked half a cigarette in the driveway prior to leaving. Thomas Velazquez smoked the other half when Thomas Velazquez got home.

Thomas Velazquez did not know what started the fire.

### Video:

No video was available or reviewed by the State Fire Marshal's Office.

### Weather Reviewed:

The weather information was obtained from [www.underground.com](http://www.underground.com). The data was reviewed for February 1, 2025. The closest reporting station was the Minot International Airport Station, approximately five miles away. The following information was learned.

Time	Temperature	Humidity	Wind	Condition
1:54 AM	9° Fahrenheit	80%	E 18 MPH	Fair
2:54 AM	9° Fahrenheit	77%	E 17 MPH	Mostly Cloudy
3:54 AM	9° Fahrenheit	80%	E 15 MPH	Cloudy
4:54 AM	11° Fahrenheit	77%	E 14 MPH	Cloudy





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5:54 AM	12° Fahrenheit	80%	E 12 MPH	Cloudy
6:54 AM	13° Fahrenheit	81%	ESE 14 MPH	Cloudy

After reviewing the weather condition, it was determined that the weather did not factor into the ignition of the fire.

### Times:

Hard Time Description	Date/Time	Soft Time Description
	1/31/2025 10:30 AM	Larry and Carol Nelson left for the weekend.
	2/1/2025 2:00 - 3:00 AM	Thomas Velazquez left the property
Burlington Rural Fire Protection District – dispatched to a residential fire	2/1/2025 4:26 AM	
Burlington Rural Fire Protection District – arrive on scene	2/1/2025 4:32 AM	
	2/1/2025 12:30 PM	ND State Fire Marshal's Office – contacted
ND State Fire Marshal's Office – on scene	2/3/2025 1:00 PM	

### Evidence identified/collected/preserved:

No evidence was collected or preserved by the North Dakota State Fire Marshals Office.

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



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### Other Forms/Documents/Reports Reviewed:

Burlington Rural Fire Protection District – Incident Report # 2025-18

- Dispatched to a report of a fully engulfed structure fire
- Date: Saturday, February 1, 2025
- Dispatched Time: 4:26 AM
- Arrival: 4:32 AM
- Defensive fire attack was established on the north side.

NFPA 921 2024 Edition

The following are referenced from the NFPA 921 2024 Edition, Guide to Fire and Explosion Investigations

- Section 19.7.4 Undetermined Fire Cause  
“The final opinion is only as good as the quality of the data used in reaching that opinion. If the level of certainty of the opinion is only “possible” or suspected,” the fire cause is undetermined....”

### Area of Origin:

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

### Fire Effects:

- The attached garage sustained the greatest consumption and collapse compared to the rest of the structure.
- Most of the garage roof assembly had collapsed or was consumed. As extension went west, the roof assembly consumption and collapse decreased.
- The garage north wall and east wall collapsed to the exterior.
- The garage south wall had collapsed to the interior.
- The shared wall between the garage and main residence was comparable to the rest of the wall on the main residence.
- Most of the combustible materials within the garage were consumed.

### Fire Dynamics:

- Most of the structural garage roof members had collapsed or were consumed.
- Most of the combustible materials within the garage were consumed.
- As the fire extension went west more of the roof assembly remained.
- As the fire extension went west the structural walls remained intact.

### Witness Statements:

- Fire Chief Karter Lesmann stated that upon arrival fire was extending through the roof along the shared wall between the garage and main residence.



# North Dakota State Fire Marshals Office (ND)

## INCIDENT ORIGIN & CAUSE NARRATIVE

Official Law Enforcement Report – Unauthorized Dissemination is Prohibited



**Incident Type: FIRE**

**Agency Incident ID: NDSFM25-010-1**

**BATS ID: i-1544764**

**Investigation Title: BURLINGTON NELSON FIRE**

- Fire Chief Karter Lesmann stated that fire was extending into the main residence from the garage.
- The garage roof collapsed first with the walls following.

### Cause Hypothesis Development and Testing:

Based on the examination of the fire scene, witness statements, and other data reviewed, the following were identified as the most credible potential fire causes within the area of origin:

Improperly discarded smoking materials such as cigarettes or matches igniting available combustible material such as paper, cardboard, plastic, or cloth materials.

- Property owners were non-smokers and did not allow smoking in the house, garage, or their vehicles.
- Thomas Velazquez was a smoker and left the property approximately 1-1.5 hours prior to the fire being noticed.
- Thomas Velazquez smoked a partial cigarette in the driveway prior to leaving.
- Thomas Velazquez stated that Thomas Velazquez did not smoke in the house or garage.
  - Thomas Velazquez stated that Thomas Velazquez finished the cigarette upon getting home.
- No smoking paraphernalia was noticed at the scene.
- This hypothesis can be eliminated.

Overheating of electrical components in receptacles or branch circuits resulted in sufficient heat for a duration capable of igniting ordinary combustible materials such as plastic, paper, wood, or cloth materials.

- Property owners did not notice any irregularities with the electrical service such as lights flickering/dimming or circuit breakers tripping.
- Thomas Velazquez did not notice any irregularities with the electrical service such as lights flickering/dimming or circuit breakers tripping.
- Thomas Velazquez turned off the lights prior to leaving the residence.
- No space heaters or battery chargers were in use.
- No damage was noticed to the electrical meter or panels.
- Due to structural collapse and extent of damage throughout the structure, not all electrical circuits to be fully evaluated.

Person(s) known or unknown starting a fire with an open flame to available combustible materials such as wood, cloth, or paper.

- Property owners were not home at the time of the fire and were unaware of any enemies.



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- Thomas Velazquez was unaware of any enemies or of the Nelson's having any enemies that would want to destroy the residence.
- Thomas Velazquez did not notice any unknown people in the area.
- Thomas Velazquez stated that the property was secure prior to leaving.
- Upon fire department's arrival, all the doors were closed.
- This hypothesis can be eliminated.

Due to the extent of damage present to the structure and weather conditions, not all causal hypotheses could be fully developed and tested in accordance with NFPA 921.

- **Section 19.7.4 Undetermined Fire Cause**  
"The final opinion is only as good as the quality of the data used in reaching that opinion. If the level of certainty of the opinion is only "possible" or suspected," the fire cause is undetermined...."

### Final Hypothesis/Conclusion:

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

Due to the extent of damage and the inability to fully analyze all potential causes the fire remains undetermined.

The 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