



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: NDSFM25-020

BATS ID: 1547256

Investigation Title: STANLEY KANNIENEN FIRE



Incident Date/Time/Location

Status

Investigation Closed

Jurisdiction

Primary

Start Date/Time

2/22/2025 01:00 Saturday

Address

208 Main St

City/State/Zip

Stanley, ND 58784

County

Mountrail County

Investigator Information

Name

Jessica Sinerius

Phone

701-220-2762

Email

jsinerius@nd.gov

Title

Deputy State Fire Marshal

Property Use or Target Information

Type

Other Structures

Subtype

Other

Status

Occupied And Operating



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Scene Details

Miscellaneous Information

Latitude

48.316961

Longitude

-102.391009



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Person/Organization Information

Name

CHRISTENSEN, SKY

DOB

1987

Race

Ethnicity

Sex

F

Age at time of Incident

37

Juvenile

No

Relationship(s)

Witness

Notes



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Name

NARDACCI, TARA

DOB	Race	Ethnicity
1984		

Age at time of Incident
40

Juvenile
No

Relationship(s)

Witness

Notes



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Name

FOOTH, GINA

DOB

1967

Sex

F

Juvenile

No

Relationship(s)

Witness

Race

Ethnicity

Age at time of Incident

57

Notes



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Name

KANNIENEN, JORDAN

DOB **Race** **Ethnicity**

1983

Sex **Age at time of Incident**

M 41

Juvenile

No

Relationship(s)

Victim



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Attachments

Filename	Description	Date
NDSFM25-020 STANLEY KANNIENEN FIRE.pdf		8/5/2025

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 Aaron Skarsgard, Stanley Fire Department



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Investigator/Agent - Sinerius, Jessica

Date

Approving Official

Date



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: NDSFM25-020-1

BATS ID: i-1547256

Investigation Title: STANLEY KANNIENEN FIRE

Identify the Need

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

On Saturday, February 22, 2025, at approximately 8:00 AM, I, Deputy State Fire Marshal (DSFM) Jess Sinerius, was contacted by State Radio regarding a commercial structure fire that occurred in Stanley, ND. Fire Chief Aaron Skarsgard of the Stanley Fire Department was requesting assistance with an Origin and Cause Investigation.

I contacted Fire Chief Aaron Skarsgard to discuss the request. During the conversation it was agreed that the fire scene investigation would begin on Saturday, February 22, 2025, at approximately 10:30 AM.

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 22, 2025, at approximately 1:15 AM a fire was reported at 208 S Main St. Stanley, ND. Officer Joseph Rivers of the Stanley Police Department noticed the fire during patrol and reported it. Upon the fire department’s arrival, all occupants had exited the building. The Stanley Fire Department began extinguishment efforts. The fire extended throughout the structure. Most of the structure had collapsed into the interior except for the exterior walls. (See Figure 1)



Figure 1 Photograph DSC_0045.JPG Exterior East Side

Authority to Enter/Search:

On February 22, 2025, at approximately 11:15 AM I arrived on scene. The Stanley Fire Department was on scene and maintained control of the scene throughout my scene examination. Property owners Jordan and Elizabeth Kanninen arrived on scene. Jordan Kanninen was presented with a Consent to Search Form. After reviewing the form, Jordan Kanninen did not have any questions and signed the form. Fire Chief Aaron Skarsgard witnessed the conversation and Jordan Kanninen sign the form.

Upon completing the scene examination, I cleared the scene at approximately 2:00 PM. Prior to leaving the scene I advised Jordan Kanninen not to alter the scene before contacting Jordan Kanninen's insurance company.

On Tuesday April 1, 2025, I returned to the scene at approximately 8:30 AM for a group examination. Upon my arrival a briefing was held to discuss all known information with Fire Investigator Kerri Hoogendoorn, Investigator Michael Dettman, and Senior Consultant Keith Mullins.

After the group examination I departed the scene at approximately 1:00 PM.

Assisting Persons/Agencies:

Name	Agency	Case Reference if Available
Fire Chief Aaron Skarsgard	Stanley Fire Department	2025-8
Lieutenant Chris Jenkins	Stanly Police Department	SY-25-00246

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 scene was photographically documented in the condition it was observed. During the examination a series of 98 photographs were taken.

During the group examination on April 1, 2025, a series of 46 photographs were taken.

Drawings/Sketches:

No diagram or sketch was completed for this incident due to the extensive damage and the inability to make entry.



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Exterior Scene Examination:

The property was a two-story commercial structure with brick and stucco material walls. The structure had a commercial building to the north and to the south. A narrow walk path was between the buildings on the south side, but no walking path was provided between the buildings on the north side. The electrical service entered the structure on the west side. The natural gas meter was on the west of the structure. Most of the roof and west half of the structure had collapsed to the interior.

My examination began on the exterior south side and continued clockwise around the structure. To the south of the structure was a single-story commercial building. A narrow walking path was between the buildings. Fire debris was along the path. The eastern half of the structure was two stories and a brick material. The second story had three damaged windows, and the upper portion of the brick wall was bowing outward. The western half of the south wall was a single story and had stucco material. The western half did not have any window or door openings and faced a parking lot. Most of the roof had collapsed to the interior. (See Figure 2)



Figure 2 Photograph DSC_0008.JPG Exterior North Wall

The west wall faced the alley. Most of the single-story west wall had collapsed. The gas meter was mounted along the northernmost end of the wall. Fire debris was piled around the gas meter and piping, but no signs of fire or heat damage were noticed to the gas meter. Most of the western half of the structure had collapsed to the interior exposing the west wall of the two-story portion. The second story wall was a brick material and had an area of collapse. The collapse was at the southern end. Approximately the center of the wall soot deposits and discoloration on the brick exterior extended up. The windows on the northernmost end remained intact but were darkened with soot deposits. The remains of a wood deck were visible at the top of the fire debris. (See Figure 3)



Figure 3 Photograph DSC_0013.JPG Exterior East Wall, Collapse, Gas Meter

The north wall was comparable to the south wall. The south wall was in close proximity to another building, no pathway between the buildings was provided. Piping was mounted along the length of the wall. The upper portion of the brick wall had air conditioning units mounted on the wall. (See Figure 4)



Figure 4 Photograph DSC_0034.JPG Exterior South Side

The east side of the structure faced Main Street. The exterior wall was a material comparable to stucco. Approximately the center of the wall was an entryway with three glass pane doors. The doors were propped open and intact. Glass picture windows extended the length of the wall on each side of the doors. The windows south of the doors were broken. The windows north of the door remained intact. Soot deposits were noticed above the windows and entryway. The second story had four windows. Most of the glass on the second story windows were broken. The remaining glass had soot staining. The stucco exterior had soot deposits extending up from the window openings.

Interior Scene Examination:

Due to the structural collapse and active fire, access to the interior was limited to what was observable from the exterior. The interior was observable from the main level on the east side and west side.

Observation from the east side damaged windows showed the wall studs on the south and west wall. The south wall studs had charring in the area closest to the ceiling joist. As extension went to the east toward the windows the charring decreased. The ceiling joists were exposed. As extension went to the east towards the windows the charring on the ceiling joists decreased. The charring on the wall studs and ceiling joists were on the room facing side. The visible contents were covered with fire debris. The structural members west of the room had collapsed. The north wall had an entry door into the room. The north wall was comparable to the south wall. (See Figure 5)



Figure 5 Photograph DSC_0061.JPG Interior Southeast Room

The entryway had three glass pane doors. The door to the south entered a hallway that led to the businesses along the south half of the structure. Photographs were taken from the exterior. The ceiling had collapsed, and fire debris covered the hallway floor. At the west end there was a door opening. Past the door was collapsed fire debris. The south wall and north wall had wood paneling extending up approximately three feet from the floor. The drywall on the south wall was calcinated and had areas of collapse. The north wall had soot deposits and discoloration throughout. (See Figure 6)



Figure 6 DSC_0076.JPG Interior of South Hallway, Collapse, Soot Deposits

The center door had a staircase that led to the second-story apartments. The stairs were covered in fire debris. The south and north wall had drywall with wood paneling comparable to the hallway. A wood handrail was mounted along the wood paneling on the south wall. The railing extended east/west with the stairs. (See Figure 7)

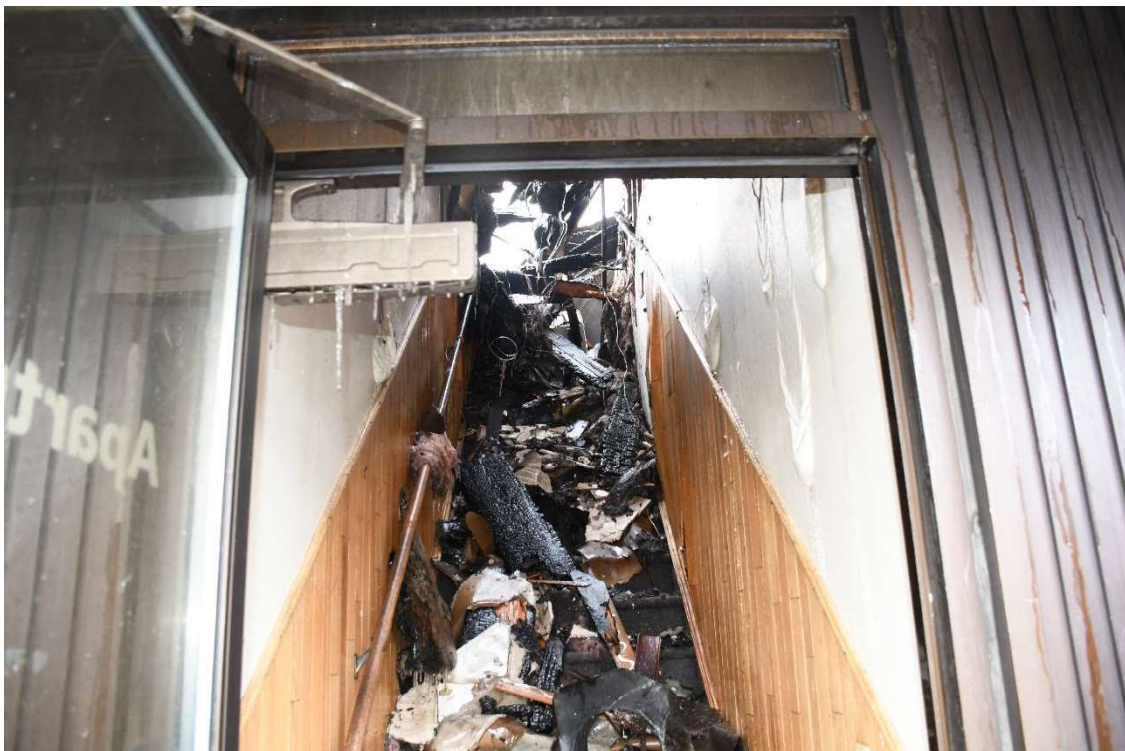


Figure 7 Photograph DSC_0078.JPG Staircase, Fire Debris

The door on the north entered a hallway that led to the business in the northeast corner. Photographs and observations were taken from the exterior. Most of the drop-down ceiling in the north hallway had collapsed or was consumed. The metal railing to the drop-down ceiling was visible and discolored. The south and north wall had soot staining and discoloration from the ceiling level to approximately a foot from the floor. The north hallway was comparable to the south hallway. Less calcination was noticed throughout the hallway compared to the south hallway. The hallway had a door on the south wall and a door on the north wall. The door on the north wall entered a business in the northeast corner of the structure. (See Figure 8)



Figure 8 Photograph DSC_0084 Interior North Hallway

On April 1, 2025, during the group examination, limited entry was made into the north hallway, northeast corner business, and south hallway. The southeast corner business was documented from the exterior side of the east window. Access was limited to the easternmost end of the structure due to collapse and active demolition efforts. The structure was photographically documented in the condition it was observed.

Active demolition continued on the exterior west side. (See Figure 9)



Figure 9 Photograph DSC_0008.JPG Exterior West Side

Entry into the north hallway was made, a door on the south wall accessed the basement. No entry was made into the basement. At the west end of the hallway, structural collapse was visible. A door on the north wall entered the northeast business. Entry into the business was made, access was limited to the eastern end of the business due to uncertain structural integrity. Most of the drop-down ceiling within the business had collapsed. Light fixtures were discolored and collapsing. The metal railing to the drop-down ceiling was visible. Soot deposits were throughout the room. The glass windows on the east wall were discolored but remained intact. (See Figure 10)



Figure 10 Photograph DSC_0019.JPG Interior of Northeast Business, Interior West Area, North Wall, Ceiling Collapse

Interview #1:

Name: Jordan and Elizabeth Kanninen – Property Owner's

Interview Date: February 22, 2025

Notes: Jordan and Elizabeth Kanninen were the property owners of the structure at the time of the fire. The following are notes from an informational interview with Jordan and Elizabeth Kanninen. The interview took place on the public sidewalk, on the south side of the structure. The interview was voluntarily done and not recorded.

Jordan Kanninen stated that Jordan and Elizabeth Kanninen purchased the building February of 2019. All taxes, fees and mortgages were up to date. Insurance was through Rimkus and up to date. No recent changes to the mortgage or insurance had been done. Jordan and Elizabeth Kanninen had moved to the Bismarck area approximately 6 months prior to the fire.

The property was managed by Sky Christensen. The Kanninen's had not been to the property since they moved. Jordan and Elizabeth Kanninen did not have any issues or complaints with Sky Christensen. Sky Christensen managed the property well and had not reported any issues with the building or tenants.

Interview #2:

Name: Fire Chief Aaron Skarsgard and Firefighter Chad Hysjulien

Interview Date: February 22, 2025

Notes: The following notes were taken during an informational interview with Fire Chief Aaron Skarsgard and Firefighter Chad Hysjulien. The conversation was not recorded and done voluntarily.

Upon the fire department's arrival, the engine parked in front of the building on Main Street. The east side of the structure faced Main Street. Smoke was extending from the second story windows on the east side. The three doors on the main level were intact with the center door open. The center door led to the apartments on second story.

Firefighters made entry through the center door to conduct a primary search. Upon getting to the top the stairs fire units had to back out due to smoke coming from the main level. Upon getting back to the main level, it was confirmed that all occupants were accounted for.

Firefighters checked the doors and windows on the east side for heat and security. The doors were locked and the southernmost windows shattered upon touching them. The northernmost windows were hot but remained intact. Firefighters removed the remaining glass from the southern windows and began extinguishment efforts from the exterior.

The second story windows on the south side failed from east to west.

Interview #3:

Name: Sky Christensen

Interview Date: March 3, 2025

Notes: The following notes were taken during an informational interview with property manager Sky Christensen. The interview was conducted via telephone and was not recorded. The interview was voluntarily done.

Sky Christensen had been the building manager for approximately two years prior to the fire. Sky Christensen stated that the commercial building was two stories with three tenants on the second story and four tenants on the main level. The second story consisted of three residential apartments. The main level had four tenants, with three businesses. Sky Christensen stated that there had not been any issues with the tenants or owners. The last time Sky Christensen was at the property was on February 18, 2025. New doors were installed at that time.

Sky Christensen stated that the front doors required a key for entry and the back door had a keypad with a code requirement. The main street facing door that led to the apartments was never locked. Sky Christensen stated that no smoking was allowed in the building. No ignitable liquids were stored within the building, no issues with the electrical service were noticed such as breakers tripping, lights flickering or dimming. The structure had three furnaces, and one was replaced by Ralph's Plumbing. The furnace was replaced the week of February 12, 2025.

Interview #4:

Name: Tara Nardacci

Interview Date: March 6, 2025

Notes: The following notes were taken during an informational interview with tenant Tara Nardacci. The interview was conducted via telephone and was not recorded. The interview was voluntarily done.

Tara Nardacci rented a space on the main level of the commercial building for a sewing studio. Tara Nardacci had been renting the space for approximately two years prior to the fire. The space was used as a hobby sewing space and not open to the public. The space was on the main level, west end. Tara Nardacci also had a storage closet next to the sewing studio. Each space was locked, and Tara Nardacci was the only one who had access to the studio and closet.

Tara Nardacci was not on the property on a regular basis and had not been on the property for approximately three weeks prior to the fire. Tara Nardacci did not notice any electrical issues such as breakers tripping or lights dimming/flicking. Tara Nardacci was not a smoker and did not report any smoking issues on the property. Tara Nardacci did not use any candles or incense in the rented space. Tara Nardacci stated that her space was always cold but did not use any space heaters. The only space heater Tara Nardacci was aware of was in the main level restroom next to Lostwood Media. Tara Nardacci had a long arm quilting machine but had unplugged the machine after each use. Tara Nardacci had other sewing items and two irons, but they were not in use or plugged in.

Tara Nardacci was current on rent and did not have any concerns or complaints with the owners, manager or tenants. Tara Nardacci did not have renters' insurance. Tara Nardacci did not know what caused the fire.

Interview #5:

Name: Gina Footh

Interview Date: March 6, 2025

Notes: The following notes were taken during an informational interview with tenant Gina Footh. The interview was conducted via telephone and was not recorded. The interview was voluntarily done.

Gina Footh rented space on the main level of the property. Gina Footh's rented space was in back portion in the northwest corner, near the furnace room. Gina Footh had been renting the space for approximately a year prior to the fire. Gina Footh's business was called Lostwood Media. Gina Footh was the owner/operator and business hours were Monday-Friday 10AM-4PM. Gina Footh ran the business and did not have hired help. Gina Footh was the only one who had access to the space and always locked it upon leaving. Gina Footh was not working on a regular schedule due to Gina Footh's husband's medical needs. The last time Gina Footh was at the property was the week of February 3, 2025.

Gina Footh stated that her rented space was approximately 30x50 feet and was an open concept space. Gina Footh stated that Gina Footh's space did not have heat, but a new furnace was installed prior to the fire. Gina Footh stated that Gina Footh had a space heater in her space, but it was not in use. Gina Footh did not notice any issues with the electrical service such as breakers tripping, lights flickering or dimming. Gina Footh's stated that the building had some lights that did work properly but the building had new ballast lights installed. Gina Footh's space did not have new lights installed.

Gina Footh was current on rent and did not have any concerns or complaints with the owners, manager or tenants. Gina Footh did not notice any unusual activity and did not have any enemies. Gina Footh did not have security cameras. Gina Footh was not a smoker and did not report any smoking issues at the property. Gina Footh did not use any candles or incense in the rented space.

Gina Footh become aware of the fire via text message from the manager on the day of the fire.

Video:

The Stanley Police Department provided body camera footage and dash camera footage. The video foot was reviewed. Stanley Police Department will maintain the footage.

Weather Reviewed:

The weather information was obtained from www.underground.com. The data was reviewed for February 22, 2025. The closest reporting station was the Minot International Airport Station, approximately 55 miles away. The following information was learned.

Time	Temperature	Humidity	Wind	Condition
12:54 AM	27	75 %	SW 18 MPH	Fair
1:54 AM	27	75 %	SSW 14 MPH	Fair
2:54 AM	26	78 %	SW 13 MPH	Fair
3:54 AM	27	75 %	SW 18 MPH	Fair
4:54 AM	25	78 %	SW 14 MPH	Fair
5:54 AM	23	78 %	SW 9 MPH	Fair

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



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Incident Type: FIRE

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BATS ID: i-1547256

Investigation Title: STANLEY KANNIENEN FIRE

Evidence identified/collected/preserved:

No evidence was collected or preserved by the North Dakota State Fire Marshal's Office.

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

Other Forms/Documents/Reports Reviewed:

Stanley Police Department Case Report: SY-25-00246

- Fire Reported: February 22, 2025, 1:15 AM
- Address: 208 Main St. S, Stanley, ND
- Officer Josheph Rivers Narrative:
 - During patrol noticed a smell of smoke
 - Checked around building at 208 Main St, noticed smoke and flame on upper floor
 - Assisted tenants evacuate the building
 - One tenant reported hearing three “pops” and then smelled smoke
 - Collected tenant information

Stanley Fire Department Incident Report: 2025-8

- Dispatched to a structure fire on February 22, 2025; 1:25 AM
- Address: 208 Main St. S, Stanley, ND
- Upon arrival smoke extending from main level business and second story apartments
- Fire progressed west through the building addition
- Defensive fire attack was established
 - Building was compartmentalized
 - Building had numerous remodels
 - Floors/roof were compromised

Area of Origin:

Based on the scene examination and witness statements, the area of origin was determined to be within the west half of the structure.

Fire Effects:

- The west half of the structure sustained the greatest amount of collapse and consumption compared to the east end. As extension went to the east, less consumption and mass loss occurred to the main level.
 - The main level businesses on the easternmost end sustained the least amount of consumption and collapse compared to the rest of the structure.
- The interior west wall of the main level businesses sustained the greatest mass loss and collapse compared to the other wall within the main level business. As extension went to the east the interior drywall sustained less collapse.
- Most of the ceilings finish on the main level businesses had collapsed exposing the wood ceiling joists. The ceiling joist sustained more charring, mass loss, and collapsed in the westernmost end with less damage to the easternmost ceiling joists.

Fire Dynamics:

- Most of the west half of the structure and contents were consumed or had collapsed to the interior. The area of least consumption and collapse was along the east wall.

- The roof had collapsed to the interior of the structure.
- The main level businesses at the easternmost end sustained the least amount of consumption and collapsed.

Witness Statements:

- The three apartments on the second story were evacuated with negative reports of fire within their apartments.
- Fire Department reported smoke coming from the main level.
- Fire Department reported that the fire extended west into the addition.

Cause Hypothesis Development and Testing:

Due to the extent of collapse, consumption, demolition, and the inability to make entry not all potential causes of the fire could be fully analyzed or tested.

- Most of the roof had collapsed to the interior.
- Most of the structure and contents had collapsed to the interior.
- Due to the extent of collapse the structure was unstable and presented safety hazards.
 - Entry into the structure was limited to a few feet along the easternmost end.
- Demolition efforts were established prior to my arrival and continued for several days.

Final Hypothesis/Conclusion:

Based on the scene examination and witness statements the area of origin was determined to be within the west end of the structure.

Due to the extent of collapse, consumption, demolition, and the inability to make entry not all potential causes of the fire could be fully analyzed or tested. The remains undetermined.

The fire was 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