



North Dakota Office of the State Fire Marshal (ND)

INCIDENT REPORT

Official Law Enforcement Report - Unauthorized Dissemination is Prohibited

Incident Type: Fire

Agency Incident ID:

NDSFM25-027

BATS ID: 1549851

Investigation Title:

CASSELTON EARLS REPAIR FIRE



Incident Date/Time/Location

Status

Investigation Closed

Jurisdiction

Primary

Start Date/Time

3/17/2025 00:00 Monday

Address

1250 Front St

City/State/Zip

Casselton, ND 58012

County

Cass County

Investigator Information

Name

Kirstin Greaney Stanger

Phone

701-799-3648

Email

kstanger@nd.gov

Title

Deputy State Fire Marshal

Property Use or Target Information

Type

Mercantile

Subtype

Vehicle/Boat Sales/Repair

Status

Occupied And Operating



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Scene Details

Damage and Casualties

Number of Injured

1

Miscellaneous Information

Latitude

46.900361

Longitude

-97.203699



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Person/Organization Information

Name

KITZAN, LANCE

Business Name

CASS COUNTY SHERIFFS DEPARTMENT

Race

White

Sex

M

Juvenile

No

Relationship(s)

Law Enforcement Official

Notes

Investigator assigned to the fire.



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Business Name

CASS COUNTY SHERIFFS DEPARTMENT

Juvenile

No

Notes

Requesting/notifying
agency



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Business Name

CASSELTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

Juvenile

No

Notes

Responding agency



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Name

HANSON, CHRISTIAN

DOB

2001

Sex

M

Juvenile

No

Relationship(s)

Injured

Business Name

Earls Repair

Race

Ethnicity

Age at time of Incident

23

Notes

Sustained burn injuries



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Attachments

Filename	Description	Date
NDSFM25-027.pdf		3/25/2025

No image specified



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Narrative(s)

Title

Contacts

Author

Kirstin Greaney Stanger

7017993648

kstanger@nd.gov

Description

Distribution by email only:

Detective Lance Kitzan, Cass County Sheriff's Department, KitzanL@casscountynd.gov
Fire Chief John Hejl, Casselton Fire Department, hejl87@aol.com



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Investigator/Agent - Greaney Stanger, Kirstin

Date

Approving Official

Date



North Dakota State Fire Marshals Office (ND)
SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT NARRATIVE
Official Law Enforcement Report – Unauthorized Dissemination is Prohibited



Incident Type: Fire/Arson

Agency Incident ID: NDSFM25-027

BATS ID: i-1549851

Investigation Title: CASSELTON EARLS REPAIR FIRE

Lead Fire/Explosion Origin and Cause Investigator:		
Name	Agency	Case Reference if Available
Lance Kitzan	Cass County Sheriff's Office	2025-08825

Fatalities/Injuries:		
Name	Fatality/Injury:	Notes/Other Information:
Christian Hanson	Injury	Burns to both hands and side of face.

Reason For Supplemental Report:
I, Kirstin Greaney-Stanger, Deputy Fire Marshal was contacted by Deputy State Fire Marshal Doug Pierre about a fire that occurred at 1250 Front St., Casselton, ND on Monday, March 18, 2025. This report was to document the fire occurrence. No response from the North Dakota State Fire Marshal's Office was requested.

Remarks:
<p>I contacted Cass County Sheriff's Department Detective Lance Kitzan. Lance Kitzan stated the Cass County Sheriff's department was notified of a fire that resulted in one injury the Casselton Fire Department had responded to.</p> <p>Detective Lance Kitzan stated they received further information on the fire at Earls Repair located at 1250 Front St., Casselton, ND. Detective Lance Kitzan stated the information obtain confirmed the fire occurred after the regulator on the top of an acetylene tank was snapped off. Detective Lance Kitzan stated the burn victim Christian Hanson raised a vehicle up on a hoist to heat up car parts for repairs. Detective Lance Kitzan stated the controls for the vehicle hoist were approximately five feet from the hoist on the wall. Christian Hanson left the vehicle to conduct another task, when Christian Hanson returned to the vehicle, they lowered the hoist without moving the acetylene tank. When Christian Hanson lowered the vehicle down on the hoist, the vehicle or hoist came down on top of the acetylene tank and snapped off the regulator. Detective Lance Kitzan stated Christian Hanson grabbed the welding cart with the acetylene tank on it and pulled it out from under the vehicle and placed it at the rear side of the vehicle. Detective Lance Kitzan stated the acetylene gas ignited causing the flames to go up towards the ceiling. Detective Lance Kitzan stated the ignition of the gas caused a loud explosion boom sound that was loud enough the boom was heard in the office, causing an employee in the office to take shelter.</p> <p>The 9-1-1 call for the fire came in at 11:26 AM on Monday, March 17, 2025. Detective Lance Kitzan stated the Casselton Fire Department responded to the fire. The Casselton Fire Department personnel walked up to the acetylene tank, turned off the tank, and removed the welding unit with the acetylene tank from the building.</p>

Detective Lance Kitzan stated Christian Hanson had placed their gloved hand on the top of the tank and when Christian Hanson removed their hand from the tank the acetylene gas ignited. As the acetylene gas ignited Christian Hanson pulled their head back causing the fire to singe the side of their face resulting in 1st degree burns. Detective Lance Kitzan stated Christian Hanson also sustained 2nd degree burn injuries to the back of their hands. Christian Hanson had sought medical treatment at the clinic in Casselton, ND.

Detective Lance Kitzan stated there was no structural fire damage or smoke damage to the interior of the building. Detective Lance Kitzan stated the only fire damage was sustained to the welding cart, consisting of charring to the top of the tanks, and melting to the welding hoses. Detective Lance Kitzan stated they were not requesting assistance, they just wanted to pass the information along. Detective Lance Kitzan stated the Cass County Sheriff's Department was investigating the incident as an accident and not as a fire.

I contacted the Casselton Fire Chief John Hejl for further information on the fire. No contact was made and no phone call was returned from Fire Chief John Hejl.