

North Dakota Office of the State Fire Marshal (ND)

INCIDENT REPORT

Official Law Enforcement Report - Unauthorized Dissemination is Prohibited

Incident Type: Fire / Accidental

Agency Incident ID: NDSFM25-048

BATS ID: 1563075

Investigation Title: GRANVILLE JONES FIRE



Incident Date/Time/Location

Status

Investigation Closed

Jurisdiction

Primary

Start Date/Time

5/20/2025 14:20 Tuesday

Address

201 Roosevelt Ave

City/State/Zip

Granville, ND 58741

County

McHenry County

Investigator Information

Name

Nicholas J Fettig

Phone

701-955-3294

Email

njfettig@nd.gov

Title

Deputy State Fire Marshal

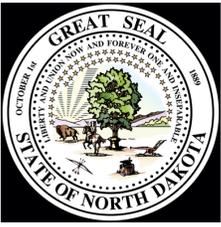
Property Use or Target Information

Type

Residential

Status

Occupied And Operating



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## Scene Details

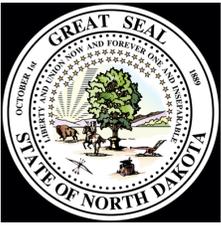
## Miscellaneous Information

**Latitude**

48.266957

**Longitude**

-100.846780



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Person/Organization Information

Name

JONES, CONNIE

DOB

1952

Race

White

Ethnicity

Non-Hispanic

Sex

F

Age at time of Incident

72

Juvenile

No

Relationship(s)

Resident, Victim



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**Name**

THULL, SHANE

**Race**

White

**Sex**

M

**Juvenile**

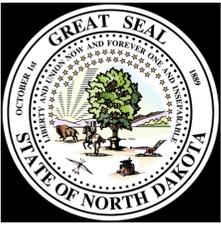
No

**Relationship(s)**

Firefighter – Volunteer Dept

**Notes**

FC of the Granville  
Rural Fire Protection  
District



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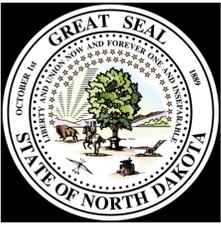
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**Attachments**

<b>Filename</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
NDSFM25-048-1 GRANVILLE JONES FIRE.pdf		11/17/2025

**No image specified**



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**Narrative(s)**

**Title**

Distribution List

**Author**

Nicholas Fettig

7019553294

njfettig@nd.gov

**Description**

Granville Fire Department



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\_\_\_\_\_  
Investigator/Agent - Fettig, Nicholas

\_\_\_\_\_  
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 Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at approximately 3:00 PM, I Deputy State Fire Marshal (DSFM) Nick Fettig was contacted by the on-call deputy regarding a fire in Granville, ND. The on-call deputy requested that I contact Fire Chief Shane Thull of the Granville Rural Fire Protection District. I contacted Fire Chief (FC) Shane Thull and during the discussion it was agreed that the fire investigation would begin on Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at approximately 7:00 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:**

A fire occurred in a modular home at 201 Roosevelt Ave SW in Granville, ND. The fire was reported on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at approximately 2:20 PM. The Granville Rural Fire Protection District responded and extinguished the fire. No occupants occupied the structure at the time of the fire with a passerby who called 911. No injuries or fatalities were reported. (See Figure 1)



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Figure 1 Photograph NJF\_0025, Direction West, modular home with crawl space no basement.

### Authority to Enter/Search:

I arrived on scene on May 20, 2025, at approximately 7:00 PM. I met with DSFM Andrew Browne, Fire Chief Shane Thull, and property owner Connie Jones. I presented Connie Jones with a Consent to Search Form. Connie Jones reviewed the form and did not have any questions or concerns and agreed to sign the form. DSFM Andrew Browne witnessed the discussion and Connie Jones signing the form. The Consent to Search Form will remain with the file.

At the end of the scene examination a brief discussion with Connie Jones about safety concerns, I released the scene back to the Granville Rural Fire Protection District. I advised Connie Jones to contact the insurance company prior to altering the scene.

I departed the scene at approximately 9:23 PM.

### Assisting Person/Agencies:

Name	Agency	Case Reference if Available
Fire Chief Shane Thull	Granville Rural Fire Protection District	
Deputy Matthew Petersen	McHenry Sheriff's Department	MH-25-2574



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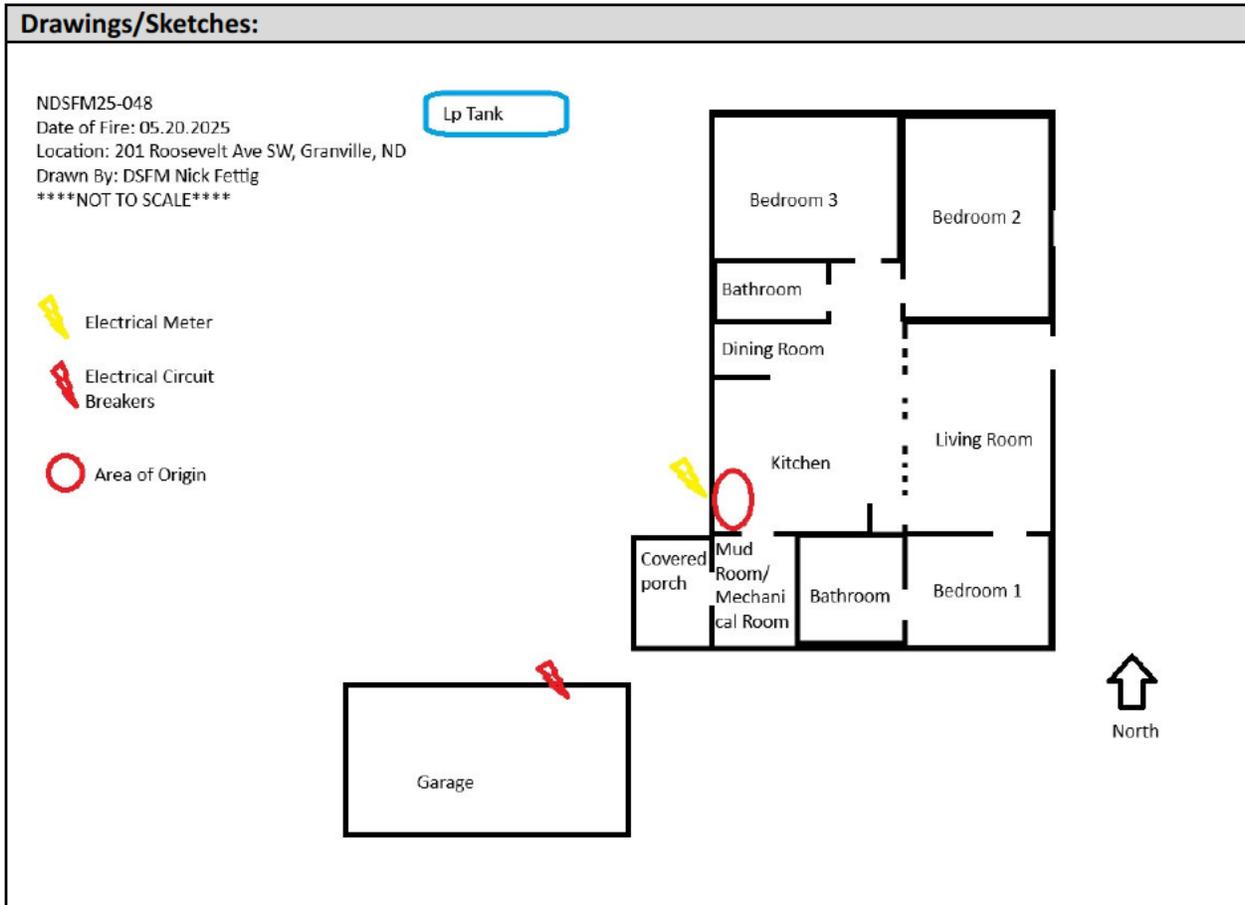
Investigation Title: GRANVILLE JONES FIRE

DSFM Andrew Browne	North Dakota State Fire Marshal's Office	NDSFM25-048-2
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Fatalities/Injuries:		
Name	Fatality/Injury:	Notes/Other Information
		No injuries or fatalities were reported to the North Dakota State Fire Marshal's Office.

### Data Collection

Photographs:
Prior to physically altering the fire scene, the scene was photographed in the condition it was found. During the investigation, layering process and reconstruction process a series of 121 photographs were taken. The photographs will remain with the file. A photo log was not created for this report.





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### Exterior Scene Examination:

During my initial 360° walk around of the structure a Scene Safety Form was completed. The form will remain with the file. The structure was a modular home with vinyl siding and asphalt shingles. The electrical meter was housed on the west side of the structure and ran through an underground lateral connection. The electrical meter housing was in place with the meter removed. The Lp tank was located in the yard of the west side of the property on the north side of the wooden privacy fence. The Lp tank gauge read approximately 60% full and the shutoff valve was in the closed position. No fire or smoke damage was observed to the electrical meter housing or the Lp tank and secondary regulator.

The north side of the structure had received no fire or smoke damage with both windows intact.

The west side of the structure had all windows intact. Near the middle of the structure on the north side of the covered porch received damage to the soffits due to fire suppression and overhaul. Smoke staining was observed around the window frame, soffit and vent. (See Figure 2)



Figure 2 Photograph NJF\_0035, west side of structure

The covered porch received no signs of smoke or fire damage. South of the covered porch was a nonconnected garage with circuit breaker panel on the exterior of the garage with the service disconnect, house and garage circuit breakers all placed in the off position.

The south side of the structure had all windows intact with no signs of smoke or fire damage.



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The east side of the structure had all windows intact with no signs of smoke or fire damage. (See Figure 3)



Figure 3 Photograph NJF\_0023, East corner of the structure, no fire or smoke damage

The front door frame to the structure had a large crack in the framing that showed signs of forcible entry.

### Interior Scene Examination:

My interior scene examination began in the area of least damage and continued to the area of greatest damage. During my initial safety walk through, it was determined that the area of least damage was the furthest north bedrooms, and the area of greatest damage was the kitchen.

Entry was made into the structure at the doorway on the east side of the structure. The living room sustained smoke staining to the ceiling and top half portions of the walls. North of the living room to the hallway into the two bedrooms and bathrooms received smoke staining to the ceiling and top half portion of the walls.

The master bedroom and bathroom received smoke staining to the ceiling and top half portion of the walls.

The dining room received smoke staining to the ceiling and top half portion of the walls.

The kitchen going from north to south, the ceiling received smoke staining and received mass loss to the ceiling over the stove in a horizontal line all the way to roof peak. The upper kitchen cabinets over the sink received



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smoke staining on the upper half portion while the upper cabinets above the stove received charring with a v pattern observed from the stove top to the ceiling. (See Figure 4)



Figure 4 Photograph NJF\_0071, V pattern over kitchen stove.

On the upper cabinets above the stove the south cabinet door received mass loss of the door and charring to the interior walls. The south side of the kitchen stove wall received mass loss to the wall stud and electrical outlet housing. The exhaust fan above the stove received oxidation and discoloration more to the south side of the exhaust vent than the north. (See figure 5)



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*Figure 5 Photograph NJF\_0085, Kitchen, mass loss of cabinet door, oxidation to exhaust vent.*

The stove back received heat-induced color change which extended to the outer edge on the south side with melting to the digital clock display. The stove top had an ash tray in the center of the two rear burners which left a protected space underneath the ash tray. Pieces of charred cloth material and wooden tooth picks were discovered across the stove top along with melted plastic materials. Insulation materials were discovered on the stove top on top of and around the two metal cooking pans observed on the on the rear two burners. (See figure 6)



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Figure 6 Photograph NJF\_0093, Kitchen stove top

<b>Interview #1:</b>	
<b>Name:</b>	Fire Chief (FC) Shane Thull, Granville Rural Fire Protection District
<b>Interview Date:</b>	05.20.2025
<p><b>Notes:</b> FC Shane Thull was the FC of the Granville Rural Fire Protection District at the time of the fire. The following are notes from an informational non-custodial non-recorded interview with FC Shane Thull. The interview took place in the driveway of the property. I informed FC Shane Thull that FC Shane Thull did not have to answer any questions, and that FC Shane Thull could leave at any time.</p> <p>FC Shane Thull stated that the Granville Rural Fire Protection District was dispatched to a residential structural fire which on arrival showed smoke coming from the west side of the structure. FC Shane Thull stated that the first fire crews on scene had one fire fighter who was wearing and recording with a helmet mounted camera. FC Shane Thull stated fire crews found the front door to be locked and used forcible entry to enter the structure.</p> <p>FC Shane Thull stated when fire crews made first entry into the east side of the structure the structure was filled with smoke and had low visibility. FC Shane Thull stated fire crews found active flames in the kitchen around the</p>	



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stove area. FC Shane Thull stated fire crews extinguished the fire, checked for hot spots and ventilated the structure. FC Shane Thull stated fire crews made one access hole in the ceiling in the master bedroom to check for an attic fire.

FC Shane Thull stated that Lp tanks valve was in the closed position, and no persons was found home at the residence. FC Shane Thull stated fire crews turned off outside breakers labeled house/garage. FC Shane Thull stated fire crews believed to have found the stove top burner set to the on position and turned the valve back off.

### Interview #2:

**Name:** Connie Jones, Homeowner

**Interview Date:** 05.20.2025

**Notes:** Connie Jones was the owner of the residential structure at the time of the fire. The following are notes from an informational non-custodial non-recorded interview with Connie Jones. The interview took place in the driveway of the property. I informed Connie Jones that Connie Jones did not have to answer any questions, and that Connie Jones could leave at any time.

Connie Jones stated that Connie Jones purchased the structure in 2014 and currently had no loans or liens against the property. Connie Jones stated that Connie Jones's boyfriend moved into the structure with Connie Jones roughly one year ago. Connie Jones stated that Connie Jones did have insurance on the property at the time of the fire with Foremost Property Insurance policy number 103-0901771080-11.

Connie Jones stated that Connie Jones did sometimes smoke inside of the structure but would only smoke in front of the kitchen stove. Connie Jones stated that Connie Jones would use a plastic ash tray that Connie Jones placed on the stove top. Connie Jones stated that Connie Jones made and used homemade hand rolled cigarettes. Connie Jones stated that on nice days Connie Jones would smoke on the back deck.

Connie Jones stated on the day of the fire Connie Jones woke up roughly around 9:30 AM. Connie Jones stated that Connie Jones left the structure roughly around 12:00 PM to travel to Upham roughly 30 miles away. Connie Jones stated that Connie Jones received a phone call stating that Connie Jones house was on fire.

Connie Jones stated that Connie Jones had no known knowledge of any mechanical or electrical issues with the structure and had no known enemies that would want to cause Connie Jones any harm.

### Interview #3:

**Name:** Jada Jay, Foremost Property Insurance

**Interview Date:** 10.15.2025

**Notes:** Multiple attempts were made to contact Jada Jay via phone call with no response. The record of phone calls are of the following.  
10.15.2025  
10.20.2025



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10.31.2025

**Video:**

Helmet mounted camera of fire crews entering the structure was available and reviewed by the North Dakota State Fire Marshal's Office. A total of three videos were reviewed of fire crews entering and extinguishing the structure fire.

On video labeled 20250520\_140139\_002.MP4

- 10:18 fire crews walking past the kitchen stove and observed the right turn knob not in the off position.
- 11:47 fire crew's flashlight on the stove control panel showing all knobs turned to the off position except the far-right knob.
- 13:34 fire crews turned the stove's knob to the off position.

**Weather Reviewed:**

The weather information was obtained from [www.wunderground.com](http://www.wunderground.com). The data was reviewed for May 20, 2025. The closest reporting station was the Surrey Station, approximately 15 miles away. The following information was learned. The weather was not a contributing factor of ignition to this fire.

Time	Temperature	Humidity	Wind	Condition
12:20 PM	39 °F	93%	10 MPH, NE	Mist
12:54 PM	40 °F	89%	7 MPH, NE	Cloudy
1:54 PM	40 °F	89%	12 MPH, N, NE	Cloudy
1:59 PM	40 °F	89%	9 MPH, NE	Cloudy
2:10 PM	40 °F	89%	14 MPH, N, NE	Cloudy
2:51 PM	40 °F	89%	14 MPH, N, NE	Cloudy
2:54 PM	39 °F	89%	14 MPH, N, NE	Cloudy
3:09 PM	40 °F	89%	8 MPH, NE	Cloudy

**Times:**

Hard Time Description	Time	Soft Time Description
	12:00 PM	Connie Jones left the residence.



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	Time of 911 call	2:20 PM	
	FD Dispatch	2:23 PM	
	Fire Marshal's Office Requested	3:12 PM	

**Evidence identified/collected/preserved:**

No evidence was identified, 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:**

Call For Service Detail Report

- 911 call came in at 2:20 PM.
- Granville Rural Fire Protection District was paged at 2:23 PM.
- Granville Rural Fire Protection District requested Fire Marshal's Office at 3:12 PM.

911 Call Recording

- 911 caller stated no person, or vehicles were at the residence when the fire was discovered.
- 911 caller stated could see smoke but no fire on the west side of the structure.

**Area of Origin:**

Based on the fire scene examination, witness statements, and other data reviewed, the area of origin was determined to be the stove area of the kitchen. (See figure 7)



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Figure 7 Photograph NJF\_0087, Kitchen stove top

### ● Fire Effects

- This area sustained the most consumption compared to the rest of the structure.
- The wood framing sustained more charring and mass loss compared to the rest of the structure.
- Top kitchen cabinets received charring in a V pattern.

### Fire Dynamics

- Color changing oxidation to the hood exhaust vent.
- Charring and mass loss to wall studs in the area of the kitchen.
- Charring to wooden rafters in the kitchen area.

### Witness Statement

- 911 caller stated no person, or vehicles were at the residence when the fire was discovered.
- 911 caller stated could see smoke but no fire on the west side of the structure.
- FC Shane Thull stated seeing active flames from the stove area.

### Cause Hypothesis Development and Testing:

The following were identified as the most credible potential fire cause within the area of origin:

- Improperly discarded smoking material igniting available ordinary combustible material.



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- Smoking materials was discovered in the area of origin.
- An ash tray was discovered in the area of origin.
- Connie Jones stated that Connie Jones does smoke at the stove.
- The stove burner was discovered in the HI position at the time of the fire.
- No persons was discovered at the structure at the time of the fire.
- This hypothesis could be eliminated.
  
- Cooking appliance activated igniting ordinary combustible materials such as cloth and plastics.
  - FC Shane Thull stated fire crews discovered right front burner switch was on the HI position.
  - Helmet camera video shows right front burner on the HI position.
  - Mass loss of cloth and plastic materials were discovered on stove top.
  - Two pans were discovered on the stove top.
  - This hypothesis could not be eliminated

**Final Hypothesis/Conclusion:**

Based on the fire scene examination, witness statements, and other data reviewed, the area of origin was determined to be at or near the kitchen stove.

This fire cause remains cooking appliance activated igniting ordinary combustible materials such as cloth and plastics.

The fire was classified as accidental.

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