

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: NDSFM25-071

BATS ID: 1574608

Investigation Title: PINGREE SIEBERT FIRE



Incident Date/Time/Location

Status

Investigation Closed

Jurisdiction

Primary

Start Date/Time

7/9/2025 10:00 Wednesday

Address

7374 12th St

City/State/Zip

Pingree, ND 58476

County

Stutsman 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

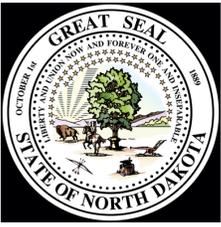
Residential

Subtype

Manufactured/Mobile Home

Status

Abandoned



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Scene Details

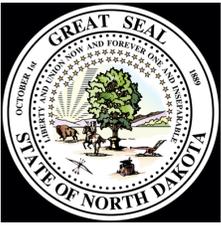
Miscellaneous Information

Latitude

47.240031

Longitude

-98.941799



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Person/Organization Information

Name

ROBINSON, JOHN

DOB

1961

Sex

M

Juvenile

No

Relationship(s)

Discovering Party, Witness

Race

White

Ethnicity

Non-Hispanic

Age at time of Incident

64

Notes

Neighbor and discovering party. Had wife call 9-1-1 upon discovery of the fire.

Address Information

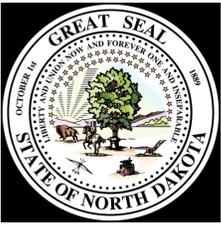
Street Address

City/State/Zip

Pingree, ND 58476

Contact Information

Primary Phone



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Name

SIEBERT, LAVONNE

Race

Undetermined

Sex

F

Juvenile

No

Relationship(s)

Owner

Notes

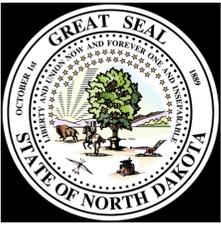
Does not live at the property. Lives out of state.

Address Information

Contact Information

Primary Phone

815-821-6267



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Name

ROGER, SIEBERT

Juvenile

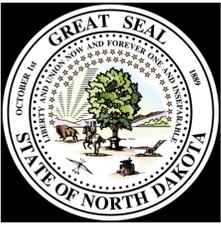
No

Relationship(s)

Other

Notes

Mentioned. Old owner who is currently deceased prior to the fire.



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Business Name

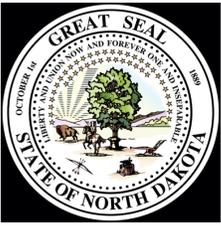
Stutsman County Sheriff's Department

Juvenile

No

Notes

Leading law enforcement agency and requesting agency



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Name FALK, JASON

Business Name Stutsman County Sheriff's Department

Race White

Sex M

Juvenile No

Relationship(s) Law Enforcement Official

Notes
Assigned Detective

Address Information

Street Address

City/State/Zip Jamestown, ND 58401

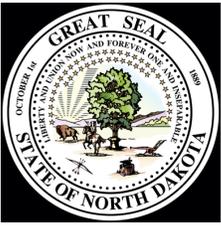
County Stutsman

Contact Information

Primary Phone [REDACTED]

Secondary Phone [REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED]



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Business Name

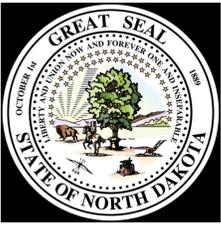
Kensal Fire Protection District

Juvenile

No

Notes

Responding Fire
Department



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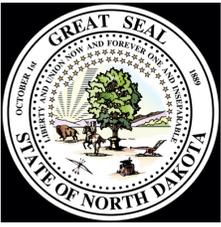
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Attachments

Filename	Description	Date
NDSFM25-071 Narrative.pdf		11/10/2025

No image specified



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Narrative(s)

Title

Author

Contacts

Kirstin Greaney Stanger

7017993648

kstanger@nd.gov

Description

Distribution by email only:

Detective Jason Falk, Stutsman County Sheriff's Department, [REDACTED]

Jerome Dunwoody, Pingree Fire Chief, [REDACTED]



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Investigator/Agent - Greaney Stanger, Kirstin

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/Arson

Agency Incident ID: NDSFM25-071

BATS ID: i-1574608

Investigation Title: PINGREE SIEBERT FIRE

Identify the Need

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

I, Deputy State Fire Marshal Kirstin Greaney-Stanger, was contacted at approximately 11:09 AM on Wednesday, July 9, 2025, by State Radio stating a fire investigation was being requested by the Pingree Rural Fire Protection District regarding an abandoned trailer home fire. I contacted Fire Chief Jerome Dunwoody of the Pingree Rural Fire Protection District. During the conversation it was determined the fire investigation would start at 2:00 PM on Thursday, July 10, 2025.

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 Wednesday, July 9, 2025, at approximately 10:00 AM a fire occurred at the property of an abandoned single wide trailer home, located at 7374 12th St. SE, Pingree, ND. (See Figure 1.) No injuries or fatalities were reported to the North Dakota State Fire Marshal's Office.



Figure 1: The fire occurred at 7374 12th St. SE, Pingree, ND. The view is from the north side of the building looking south.

The fire was called into 9-1-1 at approximately 10:00 AM by a neighbor after locating smoke and then flames on the southwest corner of the building. The Pingree Rural Fire Protection District responded and extinguished the fire.

Authority to Enter/Search:

On Wednesday, July 9, 2025, at approximately 12:34 PM, I contacted the homeowner Lavonne Siebert, who is currently residing out of state, by telephone. I made contact with Lavonne Siebert by telephone, I read the consent form to Lavonne Siebert and confirmed Lavonne Siebert had no questions. I verbally asked Lavonne Siebert if she agreed to the consent form, I just read to her. Lavonne Siebert stated yes; the consent form was noted with Lavonne Siebert's verbal consent at 12:34 PM. I signed the consent to search form as a witness. The telephone call with Lavonne Siebert was terminated at 12:43 PM.

After speaking with Lavonne Siebert consent was obtained to conduct the onsite investigation of the property located on 7374 12th St. SE, Pingree, ND for Thursday, July 10, 2025.

On Thursday, July 10, 2025, at approximately 1:59 PM, I arrived at the property located at 7374 12th St. SE, Pingree, ND and met with Sherriff Detective Jason Falk and West Fargo Fire Inspector John Neeb along with their Ignitable Liquids Detection K9 Mika. At approximately 2:20 PM, Thursday, July 10, 2025, I began my fire scene investigation. I was assisted by West Fargo Fire Investigator John Neeb and Sherriff Detective Jason Falk with my investigation. My initial scene examination concluded at approximately 4:02 PM.

Assisting Persons/Agencies:

Name	Agency	Case Reference if Available
Sherriff Detective Jason Falk	Stutsman County Sherriff Department	
Investigator John Neeb and Ignitable Liquids K9 Mika	West Fargo Fire Department	
Fire Chief	Pingree Rural Fire Protection District	

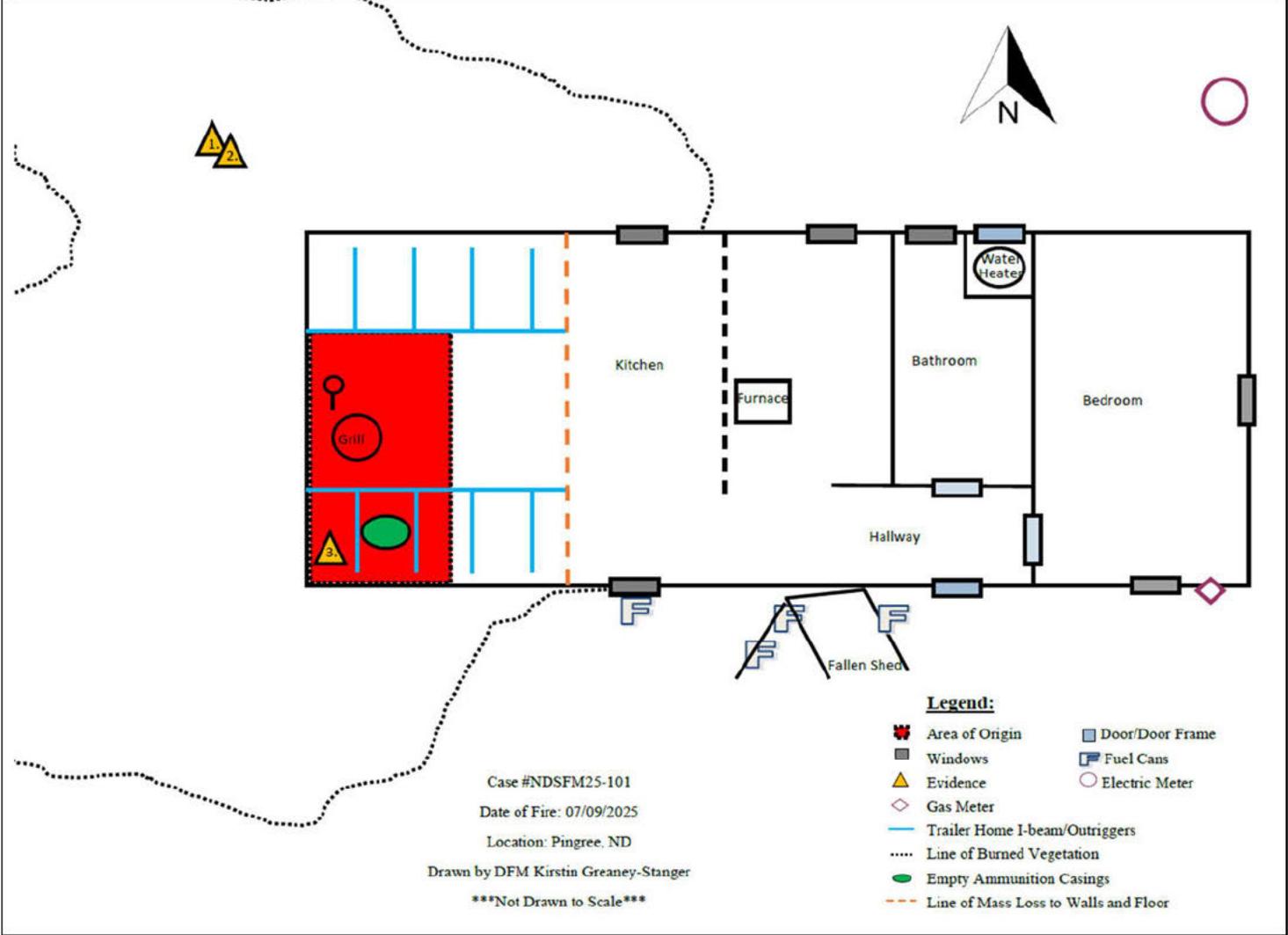
Fatalities/Injuries:

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

Data Collection**Photographs:**

During the scene examination conducted on Thursday, July 10, 2025, a total of 93 photographs were taken. A photograph log and photographs will be maintained with the file.

Drawings/Sketches:





North Dakota State Fire Marshals Office (ND)
INCIDENT ORIGIN & CAUSE NARRATIVE
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Investigation Title: PINGREE SIEBERT FIRE

Exterior Scene Examination:

The structure was a single wide, single-family, residential trailer home on a steel truss foundation. The structure was wood framed, with a flat steel roof, and steel siding. There was no attached garage, or garage near the residence. However, there was a small wood framed building that appeared to have been attached to the south side of the residence at one time before collapsing to the southeast away from the trailer home.

The greatest amount of fire damage was on the west side of the structure. The north side of the structure sustained mass loss to the siding on the west side of the structure. The top third of the steel siding had sustained mass loss exposing charred wall studs that the siding was secured to. The exposed wall studs had sustained greater mass loss on the west side of the residence than on the east side. There was charring around the remaining window on the west side of the north wall. The roof on the west side of the structure had collapsed into the building. The glass for the two windows was broken out, there was no visible smoke staining around either window indicating they were not broken out from the fire or were open at the time of the fire. There were multiple holes in the north exterior wall that is consistent with fire department operations.

The west side of the residence had sustained mass loss. The west wall had significant mass loss, the only remaining portion of the west wall was the corrugated steel paneling that was located below the level of the trailer home's floor. The corrugated steel panels were charred on the south side along with heat induced color change. (See figure 2.) The grass and vegetation along the west, northwest, and southwest side of the structure sustained charring and mass loss. The amount of charred vegetation and how far the charring extended from the residence varies.



Figure 2: West side of the trailer home. Wall that sustained mass loss and corrugated paneling below the floor line. The charring on the ground was burned vegetation. The burned vegetation expanded out from the trailer home on the west side of the structure.

The south side of the trailer home had mass loss to the wall on the west side. The mass loss extended east approximately half the length of the trailer home. The wood studs for the south wall sustained mass loss from west to east. The wall studs on the south side of the trailer home had mass consumption that went further east than the north side of the trailer home. The western most south side window had no glass remaining and the steel siding southwest of the window had heat induced color change. The east side of the south wall had siding removed that was consistent with fire department operations exposing wall studs. The exposed wall studs had areas of charring, with greater charring on the northeast side of the exposed south wall. The easternmost window on the south wall had no glass in it, there was indication the window was covered with plywood. The plywood was mostly removed, which was consistent with fire department operations. The door into the trailer home was observed in an open position. The window on the door was broken out; the remaining window was smoke stained. The inside of the door was charred and smoke stained. The corrugated steel at the base of the

trailer home was folded down at the southwest corner. The corrugated steel had heat induced color change also in the southwest corner. Four fuel cans were located on the south side of the trailer house. A metal fuel can was located at the base of the wall west of the chest freezer. The metal fuel can sustained heat induced color change and oxidation. The fuel can was empty and still had the twist cover on the drain spout. There were also three fuel cans located in the debris of the wood building; two gas cans and one diesel can. The one gas can that was not trapped by the debris of the wood structure was checked and determined to have been empty. There was a wood framed structure that had collapsed to the southeast. The structure appeared to have been at one time attached to the trailer home even though it no longer was. The wood structure had no signs of fire damage. (See figure 3.)



Figure 3: South side of the trailer home looking from the southwest to the northeast. The west side of the trailer home had mass consumption to the west side of the south wall. A wood structure on the south side of the trailer home had been attached to the residence at one time before collapsing. The wood structure did not sustain any visible fire damage.

The east side of the trailer home had some smoke staining to the metal siding above the window. The smoke staining was greater on the top north side of the window. The window was broken out, the damage to the bottom of the window frame was consistent with fire department operations. There were areas of the metal siding that had been removed exposing the walls studs. The removed siding was consistent with fire department operations. No charring was observed to the exposed wall studs on the east wall. (See figure 4.)



Figure 4: View of the fire damage to the east side of the trailer home. View looking from east to west.

The structure was powered by a power pole transformer located on the northeast side of the trailer home. The meter for the residence was attached to the power pole along with two electrical boxes. One electrical box housed a 30-amp fuse, two receptacles, one of which was a 50-amp receptacle. The second electrical box had a circuit breaker that controlled the electricity for the trailer home from the meter. The circuit breaker was in the off position and based on the dust and cobwebs on the circuit breaker would indicate the circuit breaker was in the off position at the time of the fire. The meter was off and not showing any power. From the power pole the electrical entered the residence from an underground lateral. Due to inability to access the structure it was unknown where within the trailer home the electrical was received from the underground lateral.

The structure had been supplied with Liquid Petroleum (LP) gas from a 1,000-gallon tank on the southeast side of the trailer home. The LP tank was connected to the residence by an underground gas line to a gas meter attached to the base of the trailer home on the southeast side. The fuel gauge on the LP tank was registering at approximately 25% full.

Interior Scene Examination:

The interior scene examination of the trailer home was limited to what could be observed or accessed from the exterior. The trailer home was not safe enough to enter; the structure had a compromised roof causing part of the roof to collapse into the structure and a compromised floor. The interior examination started on the southwest and west side of the building and proceeded in a counterclockwise rotation.

The flooring on the west side of the trailer home had greater mass loss than the east side. Most of the flooring on the west side of the trailer home had been consumed exposing the frame I-beams and outriggers. The remaining remnants of the flooring had sustained areas of charring and were located in the debris of the trailer

home. The items located in the debris on the west side of the trailer home included, a metal cylindrical container with a metal cooking grate at the bottom, the charcoal located under the cooking grate would indicate the cylindrical container was either a grill or a smoker. The grill had sustained some areas of oxidation and there were still some solid pieces of charcoal in the bottom. Also located in the debris was a collapsed metal shelf, motor vehicle parts, a microwave, and some aerosol cans. The metal objects located in the debris had heat-induced color change and oxidation. (See figure 5.)



Figure 5: A charcoal grill/smoker found within the fire debris on the west side of the trailer home. The view is from the west side of the trailer home looking east.

In the debris along the west wall, north of the charcoal grill, a magnifying glass was located on the top of the debris, next to a charred cardboard box containing charred and smoke stained cork tops. The glass in the magnifying glass was still intact and was not cracked or broken. The handle of the magnifying glass had sustained heat induced color change. (See figure 6.) The bottom sill on the southwest corner of the trailer home had sustained mass loss. The greatest mass loss to the bottom sill was between the first and second

outrigger on the south side of the trailer home. The bottom sill between the second and third outrigger on the south side of the trailer home had also sustained mass loss but the mass loss was minimized by the third outrigger as the bottom sill was intact. The charring to the bottom sill became less the further east on the trailer.



Figure 6: Magnifying glass found in the fire debris along the west side of the trailer home. Looking from west to east. The magnifying glass is emphasized by a red circle around it.

In the fire debris on the south side of the trailer home, where the floor had been consumed, a bunch of remnants of shot gun shells were located by remnants of charred paper. To the east of the shot gun shell remnants was a metal fuel can located at the exterior base of the trailer home. The bottom sill above the fuel can was charred and sustained mass loss. The metal roof was folded back to approximately the area where the metal fuel can was located. This is also the area where the roof had collapsed down onto the trailer home, limiting access to the kitchen area of the trailer. The metal roof sustained heat induced color change and oxidation throughout the length of the visible room. To the east of the metal fuel can, there was a chest freezer that was tipped back and

out of the trailer home. The chest freezer had heat induced color change and oxidation on all sides of the chest freezer.

The kitchen area of the trailer sustained charring and mass loss to the walls, exposing the wood studs. The wood studs had greater mass loss on the north and south walls from the west to the east. The east wall of the kitchen was charred exposing the wood studs that were charred and had sustained mass loss. The combustible materials within the kitchen were charred or had sustained mass loss. The noncombustible materials such as the oven had sustained heat induced color change. The floor was charred and sustained mass loss in a couple areas.

East of the kitchen was a room where the furnace was located. The furnace had sustained charring, heat induced color change, and areas of oxidation to the sides that could be seen. The ceiling trusses in the room that housed the furnace sustained mass loss and collapsed into the room. There was a hallway that ran along the south wall of the trailer home that extended from the kitchen to the entrance on the southeast side of the trailer home. The wood paneling for the wall east of the furnace was still remaining near the base of the furnace. The wood paneling on the walls sustained more mass loss on the west side of the trailer home than on the east side of the trailer home. The remaining paneling on the east side of the trailer home had top-down charring and mass consumption.

The bathroom/laundry room located straight across from the southeast entrance had charring with mass loss from the top down. The wood paneling within the bathroom had charring with mass loss from the top down, the greater amount of mass loss was on the west side of the bathroom than the east side. One of the laundry appliances observed was tipped over onto its front. The top half of the appliance was charred with heat induced color change. The charring on the side of the appliance closest to the entrance had a thermal pattern showing top-down burning. In front of the laundry appliance was a space heater, on the ground, facing towards the east side of the bathroom. The space heater sustained smoke staining and some charring. The bathroom vanity on the east side of the bathroom had two doors for the cabinetry detached from the vanity and on the floor in front of the vanity. The two detached cabinet doors were smoke stained with some charring.

The bedroom on the far east side of the trailer home had charring to the door frame. The door for the bedroom had been open at the time of the fire. The door had charring with mass loss from the top down. The wood paneling within the bedroom sustained charring with mass loss near the ceiling. The exposed ceiling trusses in the bedroom sustained charring. The dresser on the west side of the bedroom sustained charring with mass loss from the top down with the greater amount of mass loss to the south side of the dresser, the side closest to the door entrance. The bed on the east side of the room sustained smoke staining to the quilt that covered the bed; no charring was observed to the quilt on the bed.

The hot water heater was observed within its own separate closet located between the bedroom and the bathroom on the north side of the trailer home. There was an opening on the north side of the trailer home exterior that opened into the water heater closet. The water heater did not show any charring to the sides of the hot water heater that could be seen from the north entrance. The east side of the hot water heater closet had some minimal charring. The south wall of the hot water heater had sustained charring and mass loss to the top west side of the south wall.

The underside of the trailer house on the east side of the trailer home had no visible fire damage. The visible I-beams and outriggers were rusted. The insulation was exposed and was hanging down in some places. Some of the boards on the northeast side of the trailer that were on the bottom of the insulation had collapsed and

were hanging down towards the ground. The collapsed boards had water staining to them. Some of the boards along the north edge of the trailer home between the riggers on the east side were also water stained.

The southwest corner of the trailer home was layered remains of charred floor were located. The remaining flooring had significant charring that was greater on the bottom of the particle board. Also located in the southwest corner of the trailer home was an ammunition press, remains of a speaker, sewing machine, and ceiling fan motor. The metal components on each item had sustained heat induced color change and oxidation to areas of each item. After all of the items and debris were removed from the southwest side of the trailer home, a sample of the soil underneath the debris was collected and sent to the North Dakota Crime lab.

Interview #1:

Name: John Robinson

Interview Date: July 10, 2025

Notes: The information provided by John Robinson, the neighbor, in a non-custodial interview on Thursday, July 10, 2025. The interview was conducted at John Robinson's residence located at 7355 12th St., Pingree, ND. John Robinson was informed they could leave the interview at any time. The notes taken from the interview are provided below.

John Robinson stated they were outside mowing lawn the day of the fire. While mowing lawn they noticed a smell of smoke and started going around the yard after catching the odor 2-3 different times outside behind the house. John Robinson started looking around the house and didn't find the cause of the smoke smell. John Robinson looked over at the neighbor's residence and saw a little bit of smoke in the southwest corner of the trailer home. Initially John Robinson could not see any flames and then John Robinson "ran" into their house and had their wife call 9-1-1; the time was approximately 10:00 AM on July 9, 2025. John Robinson stated 5-10 minutes after calling 9-1-1 flames were observed moving from the southwest corner of the structure to the east. The structure then went up like a tinderbox.

John Robinson stated the last storm that went through the area had ripped the roof back on the neighbor's trailer home from the west wall, back about eight feet exposing the studs. John Robinson stated the storm had also ripped the exterior sheeting off the front exposing the studs. The storm also damaged another building on the property that was not involved in the fire.

John Robinson stated the property has been vacant for approximately four years after the owner Roger Seibert died; the property is currently owned by Roger Seibert's kids. John Robinson stated Roger Seibert's kids had been feuding about what to do with the property. John Robinson stated Roger Seibert's brother used to come and check on the property as they have personal belongings in one of the sheds on the property but have not been to the property in a while due to health issues. John Robinson stated that they have also kept an eye on the property and used to mow the grass down but have not done so this year. John Robinson stated they did not observe anyone on the property or observe anyone driving up or down the road on the day of the fire, but John Robinson stated they were busy with an electrician and may not have noticed all coming and goings on the road the morning of the fire. John Robinson stated the last person observed on the property was approximately three months prior to the fire. There were two people that were on the property that did not have access to be there and were asked to leave.

John Robinson stated after the fire department arrived to extinguish the fire, they had kept an eye on the property all day to check for possible reignition. John Robinson stated they had checked on the property 2-3 more times through the night to ensure it would not reignite. John Robinson stated they were getting ready for bed after night fall when they had observed small flames on the southwest side of the neighbor's trailer home.

The fire had then spread fast again due to the wind. John Robinson stated they again called 9-1-1 at approximately 9:30 PM on July 9, 2025, after the fire on the structure had reignited. John Robinson stated the only storm with lightning that had come through the area was the evening of July 9, 2025, after the fire department had already responded for the second time.

John Robinson stated they had no video surveillance cameras on their property.

Interview #2:

Name: Lavonne Siebert

Interview Date: July 9, 2025

Notes: The information provided by Lavonne Siebert, owner of the residence, in a non-custodial interview on Wednesday, July 9, 2025. The interview was conducted by telephone as Lavonne Siebert lives out of state. The notes taken from the interview are provided below.

Lavonne Siebert stated their dad, Roger Siebert, was moved out of the residence approximately three years ago. Lavonne Siebert stated they moved Roger Siebert to their sister's house. Roger Siebert had then passed away shortly after moving from the property. Lavonne Siebert stated when Roger Siebert moved off of the property the gas for the property was shut off at the LP tank and the power for the property was shut off; the fuse was pulled at the power pole.

Lavonne Siebert stated they were last at the residence approximately two years ago to grab tools. Lavonne Siebert stated they were just recently in North Dakota but were not at the residence. Lavonne Siebert stated when they were last at the property the door was locked, and the keys were pulled from the vehicles on the property and placed on the table within the residence. Lavonne Siebert stated they were the only person who had keys for the residence.

Lavonne Siebert stated there were two old grain bins on the property that has items that belongs to their uncles and cousins. Lavonne Siebert stated they had an uncle that would check on the property but had health issues and is not sure when the last time the uncle had checked on the property. Lavonne Siebert stated the trailer home had sustained damage from the last storms that went through the area; Lavonne Siebert stated that rumor had it the roof of the trailer home had been torn off.

I asked Lavonne Siebert if there was any gun powder or any gun loading equipment within the trailer home. Lavonne Seibert stated that Roger Siebert used to reload ammunition, but Lavonne Siebert had pulled all the gun powder and ammunition from the trailer home when they moved out Roger Siebert approximately three years ago.

Interview #3:

Name: Jason Falk

Interview Date: July 9, 2025

Notes: The information provided by Stutsman County Sheriff's Office Detective Jason Falk, in an interview on Wednesday, July 9, 2025. The interview was conducted by telephone. The notes taken from the interview are provided below.

Jason Falk of the Stutsman County Sheriff's department stated they had contacted state radio on behalf of the fire department due to the fire's proximity to Highway 281. Jason Falk stated the fire was to a trailer house that was approximately one mile from Highway 281. The trailer home was reported to be abandoned for years by

the neighbor, John Robinson, who lived across the road from the property that had the structure fire. Jason Falk stated the owner, Roger Siebert, had died a couple years ago.

Jason Falk stated there was no power to the trailer home. Northern Plains Power company came out to shut the power off for the property. The meter was live for the property, but the power company was able to confirm that the property had no electricity usage since 2021. Jason Falk stated an extension cord was plugged into an outlet box on the power pole.

Jason Falk stated the neighbor, John Robinson, was outside when they discovered the fire. Jason Falk stated John Robinson had seen the fire smoldering in the southwest corner of the trailer home before calling 9-1-1. Jason Falk stated John Robinson did not observe anyone at the property prior to the fire or anyone on the road; the traffic on the road was quiet. Jason Falk stated they were informed that the southwest corner of the trailer home had been ripped off in a recently previous storm that had gone through the area.

Jason Falk stated the fire had occurred near or around gun reloading equipment, that was located within the southwest side of the trailer home. Jason Falk stated they did not believe the fire was intentionally set but it occurred a mile from Highway 281 which had a string of previous fire reported on it, during the month of June 2025.

Video:

No video footage is known to the Fire Marshal's Office.

Weather Reviewed:

The weather information obtained is from www.wunderground.com. The data was reviewed for July 8, 2025, through July 9, 2025. The closest reporting station was the Jamestown Regional Airport Station, located in Jamestown, ND. The Jamestown Regional Airport Station is approximately twenty-five miles from 7374 12th St. SE., Pingree, ND. From the time of 8:56 AM July 8, 2025, to 9:44 PM July 9, 2025, the following information was learned:

Temperature: 58°F to 89°F
Humidity: 45% to 96%
Wind Direction: NW to E to SW
Wind Speed: 5 mph to 25 mph with wind gusts of 47 mph
Conditions: Cloudy to Fair to T-Storm/Windy

The following weather information is broken down to the times before the initial fire that was reported at 10:00 AM and the second fire that was reported at 9:30 PM on July 9, 2025:

July 9, 2025, from 12:56 AM to 9:56 AM:

Temperature: 58°F to 73°F
Humidity: 96% to 64%
Wind Direction: NNW to E
Wind Speed: calm to 8 mph with gusts of 0 mph
Conditions: Cloudy to Fair

July 9, 2025, from 12:56 PM to 9:44 PM:

Temperature: 89°F to 62°F
Humidity: 58% to 76%
Wind Direction: SE to SW
Wind Speed: 9 mph to 25 mph with gusts of 47 mph
Conditions: Fair to T-Storm/Windy

At 9:44 PM on July 9, 2025, the weather conditions showed a T-Storm in the area of Pingree, ND. The weather conditions changed from 9:22 PM to 9:44 PM on July 9, 2025, see below.

Temperature: 82°F to 68°F
Humidity: 74% to 76%
Wind Direction SSE to SW
Wind Speed: 10 mph to 25 mph; wind gusts from 0 mph to 47 mph
Conditions: Thunder to T-Storm/Windy

The weather conditions could have had an indirect cause of the fire; the open roof of the trailer from a previous storm allowed sunlight to enter the trailer from the top; direct sunlight exposure onto a magnifying glass could have refracted the sunlight to ignite nearby combustible materials. The wind direction and wind speed did not contribute to the spread of the initial fire reported at approximately 10:00 AM on July 9, 2025. The wind speed and direction could have contributed to the reignition of the fire and contributed to the spread of the second fire that was reported at approximately 9:30 PM on July 9, 2025.



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: NDSFM25-071

BATS ID: i-1574608

Investigation Title: PINGREE SIEBERT FIRE

Times:		
Hard Time Description	Time	Soft Time Description
	July 9, 2025	
	9:55 AM	Fire Discovered by the neighbor across the road while out mowing lawn. The neighbor could smell smoke before eventually seeing smoke coming from the trailer home.
Time of initial 9-1-1 call	10:00	
		Neighbor, John Robinson, stated they originally observed smoke in the southwest corner of the trailer home. 5-10 minutes after calling 9-1-1 flames were observed moving from SW of the structure east through the structure. The structure then went up like a "tinderbox".
FD Dispatch	10:17 AM	
FD Arrival	10:25 Am	
	11:09 AM	Fire investigator contacted
	12:34 PM	Owner contacted by telephone, verbal consent obtained to conduct a search and investigate the fire.
FD Cleared, fire extinguished	12:55 PM	
Time of 2 nd 9-1-1 Call	9:30 PM	
		Neighbor called 9-1-1 after observing the trailer home had reignited. Fire was seen in the southwest corner of the residence and spreading to the east.
	July 10, 2025	
	1:59 PM	Fire investigator arrived on scene
	2:20 PM	Investigation started
	4:01 PM	Investigation concluded

Evidence identified/collected/preserved:
 On Thursday, July 10, 2025, three samples were collected from the residence at 7374 12th St. SE., Pingree, ND and delivered to the North Dakota Crime Laboratory for analysis for the presence of ignitable liquids. The following were collected:

- Item #1: Charred flooring panel sample from the ground northwest of the trailer home.
- Item #2: Charred vegetation and dirt from the ground northwest of the trailer home.
- Item #3: Dirt “soil” from the southwest trailer home foundation.

The North Dakota Crime Laboratory report number: CLD25-02509 analysis of the samples identified. The following were the results of the laboratory analysis.

- Item #1: No ignitable liquids were identified
- Item #2: No ignitable liquids were identified
- Item #3: No ignitable liquids were identified

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

Other Forms/Documents/Reports Reviewed:

Pingree Rural Fire Protection District fire incident report #0000007, FDID #47283.

NFPA 921 2024 Edition

The following are references from NFPA 921 2024 Edition, Guide to Fire and Explosion Investigations.

- 3.3.17 Autoignition
 - “Initiation of combustion by heat without a spark or flame.”
- 3.3.18 Autoignition Temperature
 - “The lowest temperature at which a combustible material ignites in air without a spark or flame.”
- 3.3.102 Full Room Involvement.
 - “Condition in a compartment fire which the entire volume is involved in combustion of varying intensities.”
- 3.3.150 Piloted Ignition Temperature
 - “See 3.3.122, Ignition Temperature”
 - 3.3.122 Ignition Temperature
 - “Minimum temperature a substance should attain in order to ignite under specific test conditions.”
- 3.3.184 Smoldering
 - “Self-sustained glowing combustion without flame, usually with incandescence and smoke.”
- 5.7.4 Ignition of Solids
 - “There are three forms of ignition that occur with solid fuels: smoldering ignition or, more generally, initiation of solid phase burning; piloted flaming ignition; and flaming autoignition.”
- 9.9.1 General.
 - “For ignition to be from an electrical source, the following must occur:
 1. The electrical wiring, equipment, or component must have been energized from a building’s wiring, an emergency system, a battery, or some other source.

2. Sufficient heat and temperature to ignite a close combustible material must have been produced by electrical energy at the point of origin by the electrical source.”

Ignition Handbook 2003 Edition:

The following are references from the Ignition Handbook 2003 Edition, Principles and applications to fire safety engineering, fire investigation, risk management and forensic science.

- **LIGHT ENERGY, LENSES AND MIRRORS, Chapter 11, page 575**
 - “Light from the sun or from other sources can act as an ignition source. The radiant energy available from the sun in a cloudless sky depends on latitude, time of year, and hour of day. At peak in temperature climates it is on the order of 1 kW m^{-2} , which is insufficient to ignite any normal building materials or furnishings.”
 - “But it is possible to magnify solar radiation by optical means. It has been known since antiquity that a convex shaped mirror can be used for this purpose.”
 - “Focusing of sunlight to a point may also be done by a concave-shaped converging focus lens. Moore’s 1877 book mentions that accidental ignitions were not uncommon due to this cause, especially in laboratories where glass vessels may serve as the lens.”
 - “The Fire Research Station has estimated that 150 to 200 fires occur annually in the UK due to focused sunlight.”

- **REKINDLE IGNITIONS, Chapter 11, Page 618-619**
 - “A rekindle occurs when a fire has been suppressed to the point of no visible flames, yet later re-erupts in flaming.”
 - “If the water-vapor laden gases serving as a heat sink are convected out faster than the surface can cool below the fire point, re-ignition will take place.”
 - “... the two most common features associated with rekindles are cellulose insulation and low-density fiberboard; not surprisingly, these are the two most common construction materials that can easily be made to smolder. Rekindles are also common with upholstered furniture, especially those containing latex foam or cotton. Some types of polyurethane foam smolder under certain circumstances and thus can also lead to rekindles.”

- **RADIANT IGNITION OF FABRICS, Chapter 14, Page 821**
 - The piloted ignition of cotton fabrics exposed vertically to a radiant heat source was studied by Rangaprasad et al. who found a minimum heat flux for ignition of 12.6 kW m^{-2} .

- **RADIANT IGNITION OF PLASTICS, Chapter 14, Page 908, Table 182**

Foam	AIT(°C)	Min. flux for ignition (kW m^{-2})	
		Piloted	Auto-ignition
Polyisocyanurate			23-24
Polystyrene, expanded	440-448		27
Polystyrene, expanded, FR	405-429		
Polyurethane, flexible	426-445	16.4	16.4
Polyurethane, flexible, FR	430-450	21.4	20.0
Polyurethane, flexible, high resilience	413-429	18.7	

Polyurethane, flexible, high resilience, FR	431-453	19.4	
Polyurethane, rigid	457-494		22-26
Polyurethane, rigid, FR			26

- IGNITION TEMPERATURE OF WOOD, Chapter 14, page 945
 - “The ignition temperature of wood... the results in Table 211 span 210 – 497°C for piloted ignition and 200 – 510°C for autoignition.”

Area of Origin:

Based upon the systematic examination of the fire scene, witness statements, and other data collected, the area of origin was determined to be at, on, or near the interior of the structure on the southwest side. (See figure 7.)



Figure 7: The area of origin, the southwest side of the trailer home. View is from the exterior looking from southwest to northeast.

The following analysis supports this:

Fire Effects:

- The west side of the trailer home had sustained greater mass loss than the east side of the trailer home.
 - The only remaining portion of the west wall was the corrugated steel paneling that was located below the level of the trailer home’s floor.
 - The wood studs for the south wall sustained mass loss from west to east.
 - The flooring on the west side of the trailer home had greater mass loss than the east side.
 - Most of the flooring on the west side of the trailer home had been consumed exposing the frame I-beams and outriggers.

- The remaining flooring had significant charring that was greater on the bottom of the particle board than the top.
- The greatest mass loss to the bottom sill was between the first and second outrigger on the south side of the trailer home.
 - The bottom sill between the second and third outrigger had also sustained mass loss but the mass loss and charring to the bottom sill became less the further east on the trailer.
- The corrugated steel panels were charred and sustained heat induced color change in the southwest corner of the trailer home.
- The kitchen sustained charring and mass loss to the walls, exposing the wood studs. The wood studs had greater mass loss on the north and south walls from the west to the east.
- The wood paneling for the wall east of the furnace room was still remaining near the base of the furnace.
 - The wood paneling on the walls sustained more mass loss on the west side of the trailer home than on the east side of the trailer home.
 - The remaining paneling on the east side of the trailer home had top-down charring and mass consumption.
- The bathroom/laundry room on the east side of the trailer home had charring with mass loss from the top down.
- The laundry appliance closest to the room's entrance had charring with heat induced color change.
 - The charring on the side of the south side of the appliance had a thermal pattern showing top-down burning.
- The dresser on the west side of the master bedroom sustained charring with mass loss from the top down with the greater amount of mass loss to the south side of the dresser, the side closest to the door entrance.
- Four fuel cans were located on the south side of the trailer house.
 - One metal fuel can was located at the exterior base on the south side of the trailer home.
 - The metal fuel can sustained heat-induced color change and oxidation.
 - The fuel can was empty and still had the twist cover on the drain spout.
 - The bottom sill above the fuel can was charred and sustained mass loss.
- A magnifying glass was located on the top of the debris along the west interior wall of the trailer home, next to a charred cardboard box containing charred and smoke-stained cork tops.

Fire Dynamics:

- Flashover occurred on the west side of the trailer home.
- The west side of the trailer home sustained greater fire damage than the east side of the trailer home.
- The fire extended up and outwards. As the heated gases encountered the ceiling, the heat and gases expanded horizontally along the ceiling.
- The heated gases expanded horizontally until the gases found the walls of the room where the gases then banked down towards the floor.
- The heat and flames from the fire on the west side of the trailer home expanded to the adjacent rooms on the east side of the trailer home through opening in the walls such as doorways.

Witness Statements:

- The neighbor John Robinson reported to have been outside mowing lawn the day of the fire.
 - John Robinson could smell smoke while mowing lawn, this was when John Robinson looked over and observed smoke in the southwest corner of the trailer home.
 - John Robinson did not initially see flames when they asked their wife to call 9-1-1.
 - John Robinson stated 5-10 minutes after 9-1-1 was called flames were observed moving from the southwest corner of the structure to the east.
- John Robinson stated the last storm that went through the area had ripped the roof back on the trailer home from the west wall, back about eight feet exposing the studs.
- John Robinson stated the property had been vacant for approximately four years after the owner Roger Seibert died.
- John Robinson stated they did not observe anyone on the property or observe anyone driving up or down the road on the day of the fire, but John Robinson stated they were busy with an electrician and may not have noticed all coming and goings on the road the morning of the fire.
- Jason Falk stated John Robinson had seen the fire smoldering in the southwest corner of the trailer home before calling 9-1-1.
 - Jason Falk stated John Robinson did not observe anyone at the property prior to the fire or anyone on the road; the traffic on the road was quiet.
- John Robinson stated they were getting ready for bed when they had observed small flames from the fire reigniting on the southwest side of the neighbor's trailer home. The fire then spread fast due to the wind.
- Lavonne Siebert stated when Roger Siebert moved off of the property the gas for the property was shut off at the LP tank and the power for the property was shut off; the fuse was pulled at the power pole.
 - Jason Falk stated there was no power to the trailer home.
 - Northern Plains Power company came out to shut the power off for the property.
 - The meter was live for the property, but the power company was able to confirm that the property had no electricity usage since 2021.
- Jason Falk stated the fire had occurred near or around gun reloading equipment, that was located within the southwest side of the trailer home.

Cause Hypothesis Development and Testing:

1. The concentrated radiant energy focused through a magnifying glass for a duration long enough to ignite combustible materials.
 - Combustible materials include but are not limited to paper, cardboard, plastics, cork, and textile items such as furniture.
 - John Robinson stated the last storm that went through the area had ripped the roof back on the trailer home from the west wall, back about eight feet exposing the studs.
 - Detective Jason Falk stated John Robinson had seen the fire smoldering in the southwest corner of the trailer home before calling 9-1-1.
 - John Robinson stated they had observed smoke coming from the southwest corner of the trailer home after smelling smoke while mowing their lawn.
 - No flames were observed when the smoke was first observed.
 - The west side of the trailer home had sustained greater mass loss than the east side of the trailer home.

- The only remaining portion of the west wall was the corrugated steel paneling that was located below the level of the trailer home's floor.
- The wood studs for the south wall sustained mass loss from west to east.
- The flooring on the west side of the trailer home had greater mass loss than the east side.
 - Most of the flooring on the west side of the trailer home had been consumed exposing the frame I-beams and outriggers.
- The corrugated steel panels were charred and sustained heat induced color change in the southwest corner of the trailer home.
- The fire damage on the east side of the trailer home shows a west to east burn with a top to bottom burn pattern.
 - The kitchen sustained charring and mass loss to the walls, exposing the wood studs. The wood studs had greater mass loss on the north and south walls from the west to the east.
 - The bathroom/laundry room on the east side of the trailer home had charring with mass loss from the top down.
 - The laundry appliance closest to the room's entrance had charring with heat induced color change.
 - The charring on the side of the south side of the appliance had a thermal pattern showing top-down burning.
 - The dresser on the west side of the master bedroom sustained charring with mass loss from the top down with the greater amount of mass loss to the south side of the dresser, the side closest to the door entrance.
- A magnifying glass was located on the top of the debris along the west interior wall of the trailer home, next to a charred cardboard box containing charred and smoke-stained cork tops.
 - Ignition Handbook 2003 Edition:
The following are references from the Ignition Handbook 2003 Edition, Principles and applications to fire safety engineering, fire investigation, risk management and forensic science.
 - LIGHT ENERGY, LENSES AND MIRRORS, Chapter 11, page 575
 - "Light from the sun or from other sources can act as an ignition source. The radiant energy available from the sun in a cloudless sky depends on latitude, time of year, and hour of day. At peak in temperature climates it is on the order of 1 kW m⁻², which is insufficient to ignite any normal building materials or furnishings."
 - "But it is possible to magnify solar radiation by optical means. It has been known since antiquity that a convex shaped mirror can be used for this purpose."
 - "Focusing of sunlight to a point may also be done by a concave-shaped converging focus lens. Moore's 1877 book mentions that accidental ignitions were not uncommon due to this cause, especially in laboratories where glass vessels may serve as the lens."
 - "The Fire Research Station has estimated that 150 to 200 fires occur annually in the UK due to focused sunlight."
 - A bench test experiment was conducted on October 23, 2025, with a magnifying glass to determine if combustible materials could be ignited by concentrated radiant light energy. It was determined during the experiment that paper would ignite.
 - The west side of the structure had sustained full room involvement with flashover resulting in significant mass loss of combustible materials. Due to the mass loss to the structure, it could not be determined what combustible material could have been start of the ignition sequence from focused radiant energy due to sunlight through the magnifying glass.
 - This hypothesis could not be eliminated as a possible cause for this fire.

2. The intentional ignition of an ignitable liquid or ordinary combustible materials by person(s) known or unknown.

- Combustible materials include but are not limited to paper, cardboard, plastics, and textile items such as furniture.
- Detective Jason Falk stated they did not believe the fire was intentionally set but the trailer home fire occurred a mile from Highway 281 which had a string of previous intentional fires reported along it during the month of June 2025.
- Owner Lavonne Siebert stated the trailer home had been vacant after Roger Siebert had passed away approximately three years ago.
 - Neighbor John Robinson corroborated Lavonne Siebert on the property being vacant for approximately the past 3-4 years.
- John Robinson stated they had kept an eye on the property.
 - John Robinson stated they did not observe anyone on the property the morning of the fire or drive on the road the morning of the fire.
 - John Robinson stated they were busy with an electrician the morning of the fire and may not have observed all comings and goings on the road on the day of the fire.
 - John Robinson stated the last time they observed someone on the property was approximately three months prior to the fire. John Robinson stated the people on the property were not known, did not have permission to be on the property, and was told to leave.
- Lavonne Siebert stated they were last at the residence approximately two years ago.
 - Lavonne Siebert stated the door to the property was locked, and the keys were pulled from the vehicles on the property and placed on the table within the residence.
 - Lavonne Siebert stated they were the only person who had keys for the residence.
- John Robinson stated the property is currently owned by Roger Seibert's kids.
 - John Robinson stated Roger Seibert's kids had been feuding about what to do with the property.
- Lavonne Siebert stated the gas and power for the property was shut off when Roger Siebert moved off the property; the fuse was pulled at the power pole.
 - Detective Jason Falk stated Northern Plains Power company had confirmed the meter for the property was live, but the property had no electricity usage since 2021.
 - The circuit breaker on the power pole was observed in the off position.
 - 9.9.1 General.
 - “For ignition to be from an electrical source, the following must occur:
 1. The electrical wiring, equipment, or component must have been energized from a building's wiring, an emergency system, a battery, or some other source.
 2. Sufficient heat and temperature to ignite a close combustible material must have been produced by electrical energy at the point of origin by the electrical source.”
- John Robinson located the fire after smelling smoke while mowing their lawn.
 - Smoke was first observed coming from the southwest corner of the structure.
- Four fuel cans were located on the south exterior side of the trailer home.
 - A metal fuel can was located at the base of the south wall. The fuel can sustained heat induced color change and oxidation.
 - The metal fuel can still had the twist cover intact on the pour spout.
 - The metal fuel can had no fuel in it.

- The bottom sill above the metal fuel can was charred and sustained mass loss.
- Three other fuel cans were located on the south side of the trailer home.
 - A plastic gas can and plastic diesel can were located under the collapsed wall of a wood structure that had collapsed on the south side of the trailer home.
 - A second plastic gas can was observed in the debris of the collapsed wood structure. This gas can was evaluated and found to be empty.
- Fire debris and soil samples were taken from the structure and around the structure. None of the areas were found to contain ignitable liquids from the North Dakota Crime Lab.
- This hypothesis could not be eliminated as a possible cause for this fire.

Final Hypothesis/Conclusion:

The area of origin was determined to be at, on, or near, the interior of the structure on the southwest side.

Due to the significant mass loss of the area origin and inability to identify the start of the ignition sequence, multiple credible competing hypothesis for the cause of the fire remained. Due to there being multiple remaining hypothesis, the fire cause will be undetermined to be in accordance with NFPA 921.

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