

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: NDSFM25-083

BATS ID: 1566498

Investigation Title: KILLDEER PIPE BAR & GRILL FIRE



Incident Date/Time/Location

Status

Investigation Closed

Jurisdiction

Primary

Start Date/Time

8/1/2025 16:58 Friday

Address

355 Highway 22

City/State/Zip

Killdeer, ND 58640

County

Dunn County

Investigator Information

Name

Kaylyn Lucas

Phone

701-227-3112

Email

klucas@nd.gov

Title

Deputy State Fire Marshal

Property Use or Target Information

Type

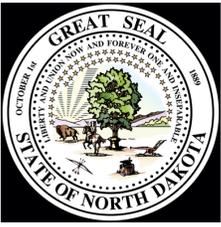
Assembly

Subtype

Bar/Nightclub/Tavern

Status

Occupied And Operating



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Scene Details

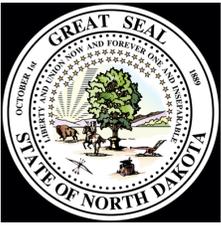
Miscellaneous Information

Latitude

47.363047

Longitude

-102.759467



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Person/Organization Information

Name

EDMONDSON, NANETTE

DOB

1967

Race

Ethnicity

Age at time of Incident

58

Juvenile

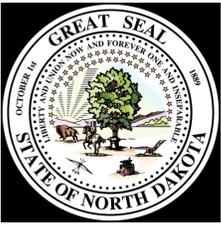
No

Relationship(s)

Owner, Victim

Notes

Owner of The Pipe



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Name

EDMONDSON, TYREL

DOB

1996

Race

Ethnicity

Age at time of Incident

28

Juvenile

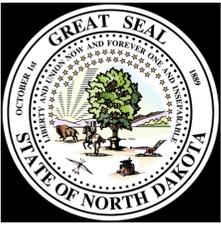
No

Relationship(s)

Employee, Witness

Notes

'TJ' - cook at The Pipe



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Name

GORDON, LANA

Juvenile

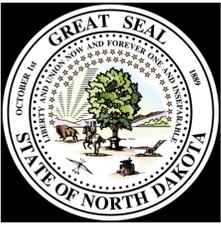
No

Relationship(s)

Employee, Witness

Notes

Cook/waitress at The
Pipe



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Name

AVALOS, JONATHAN

Juvenile

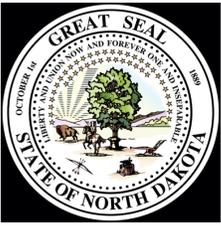
No

Relationship(s)

Law Enforcement Official, Witness

Notes

Police Chief - Killdeer
Police Department



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Name

HAUCK, RYAN

Juvenile

No

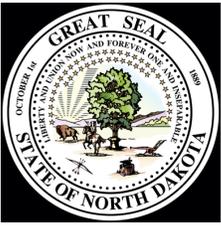
Relationship(s)

Firefighter – Volunteer Dept, Witness

Notes

Fire Chief - West Dunn

Fire Protection District



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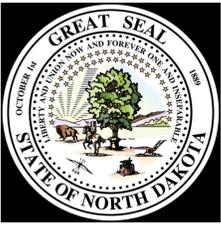
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Attachments

Filename	Description	Date
NDSFM25-083-1 KILLDEER PIPE BAR & GRILL FIRE.pdf		12/8/2025

No image specified



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Narrative(s)

Title

Author

Contacts

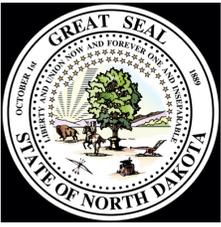
Kaylyn Lucas

7012273112

klucas@nd.gov

Description

Ryan Hauck, Fire Chief - West Dunn Fire Protection District [REDACTED] Bobbi Strait,
Building Inspector - Forsgren Associates Inc - [REDACTED]



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Deputy State Fire Marshal - Lucas, Kaylyn

Date

Approving Official

Date



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Identify the Need

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

On August 4, 2025, I, Deputy State Fire Marshal (DSFM) Kaylyn Lucas, was contacted by West Dunn Fire Protection District regarding a structure fire in Killdeer, ND. Fire Chief Ryan Hauck was requesting assistance with an Origin and Cause Investigation.

The investigation was scheduled for 1100 Mountain Time (MT) on August 4, 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 August 1, 2025, a fire occurred at a commercial bar and restaurant at 355 Hwy 22, Killdeer, ND. See Figure 1.



Figure 1: Photograph 5 - Southeast View of Structure

No injuries or fatalities were reported with the fire.



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West Dunn Fire Protection District and Killdeer Police Department responded.

Authority to Enter/Search:

I arrived on scene at approximately 1040 MT.

The property owner, Nanette Edmondson, was on scene and presented with Consent to Search that was reviewed and signed. A copy of the document will remain with the file.

After the scene examination was conducted, the scene was returned to the property owner. A discussion was held regarding safety concerns of the structural integrity and hazards of the property.

I cleared the scene at approximately 1525 MT.

Assisting Person/Agencies:		
Name	Agency	Case Reference if Available
Ryan Hauck, Fire Chief	West Dunn 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 for this fire.

Data Collection

Photographs:

The fire scene was documented photographically in the condition in which it was observed. During the scene examination, layering process, and reconstruction process, a series of 154 photographs were taken. No photograph log was completed.

Drawings/Sketches:

The following basic rendition was drawn by DSFM Kaylyn Lucas and was not to scale.



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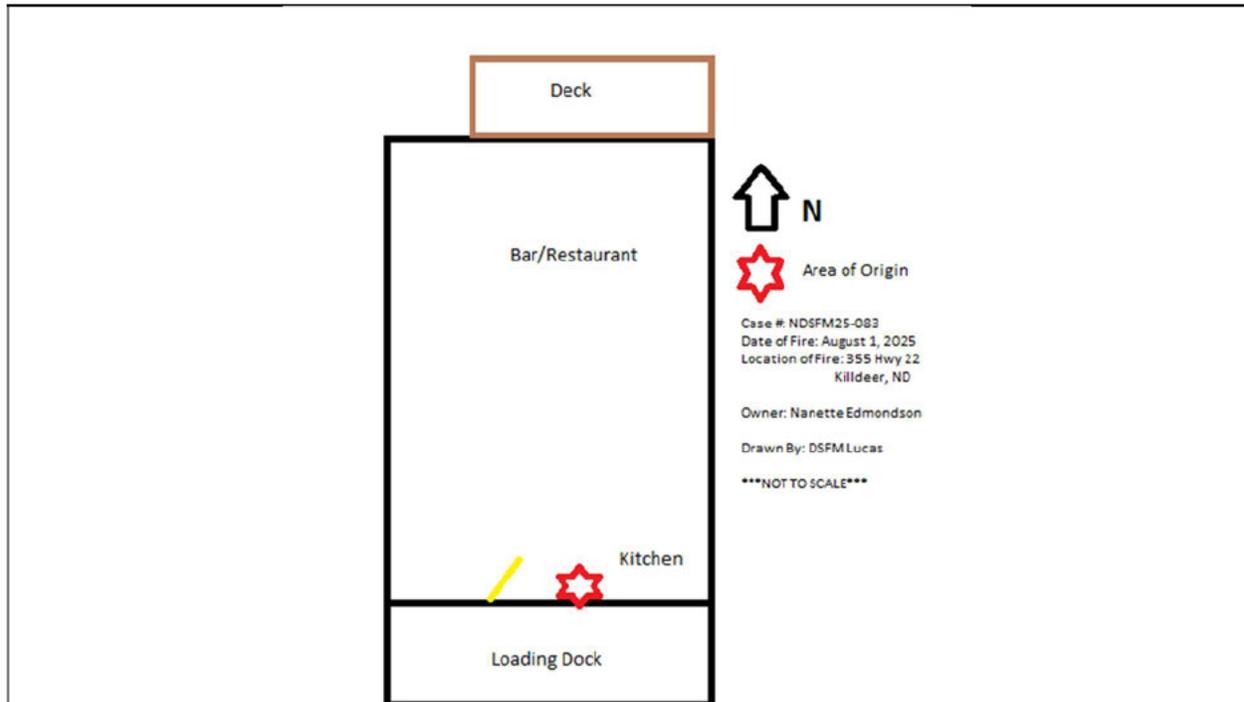


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Owner Nanette Edmondson provided a sketch of the interior of the structure that will be include in the file.

Exterior Scene Examination:

The structure was a commercial business with metal siding and a shingled roof, oriented in a north/south direction with an attached deck on the north end.

Th examination began with a 360° walk around that started on the north side and went in a counterclockwise direction. The structure sustained mass loss and charring at the south end and smoke and soot deposition on the building construction that was visible. The building was collapsed into the interior. The deck, railing, and fence at the north end were intact. See Figure 2.



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Figure 2: Photograph 7 - East View of Structure

The electrical service to the building was located on the west side of the structure, near the approximate middle, entering the building via later underground lines. An electrical pole, meter pedestal (with meter in place), and green metal electrical box were located to the northwest of the structure. No fire or thermal damage was witnessed on the pole, pedestal (meter), or green metal box. Attached to the west wall was a meter box and two adjacent electrical boxes. The cover of the meter box was removed at the time of the scene examination, and no meter was in place. No fire or heat damage was viewed upon the electrical boxes. See Figure 3.



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Figure 3: Photograph 19 - Electrical Boxes

A propane 2nd stage was located on the west exterior, adjacent to the electrical boxes. The meter had no visible signs of fire or heat damage. Two propane tanks were located on the west edge of the property, to the west of the south end of the building and southwest of the building. No fire or thermal damage was viewed on the propane tanks.

The north side of the structure was collapsed to the interior with building remains located on the existing deck. Smoke and soot deposition was viewed upon building materials near the top of the collapsed pile.

The east side of the structure was collapsed into the interior. Building materials toward the top of the debris pile showed charring, smoke and soot deposition, and mass loss.

The south side of the structure was collapsed to the interior with portions of the wall in a more upright position than compared to the north and east sides of the building. Building materials throughout the area showed signs of charring, smoke and soot deposition, and mass loss. See Figure 4.



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Figure 4: Photograph 9 - South View of Structure

The west walls of the northern west rooms were not collapsed to the interior; the roof was collapsed to the interior. The upright walls did not exhibit any exterior signs of charring, oxidation, mass loss, or smoke and soot deposition. See Figure 5.



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Figure 5: Photograph 14 - West View of Structure

No cigarette butts or smoking paraphernalia was viewed upon the ground in the immediate area of the south end of the building during the scene examination.

Interior Scene Examination:

No interior examination was completed for the entire structure due to safety concerns with regard to the stability of the remaining upright building materials, unknown floor structural soundness, and the majority of the building had collapsed to the interior. See Figure 6.



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Figure 6: Photograph 32 - Northeast View of Interior

The interior scene examination of the north and center area of the building were completed photographically from the exterior of the structure. See Figure 7.



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Figure 7: Photograph 35 - West View of Center Interior

The interior examination that was completed occurred at the south end of the structure. Layering efforts with heavy equipment were completed to remove the collapsed roof and walls prior to entering the fire area. Layering efforts continued by hand under building components, walls, and fire debris were removed from around commercial appliances.

Along the south wall of the building, a prep station was located and adjacent to the east, was a freezer with a pizza oven sitting on top. A second pizza oven was located to the east. The line cords for the appliances were located, traced, and found intact. The wall mounted receptacle on the south wall behind the freezer had two appliances plugged in. The receptacle and plugs were intact. A third line cord for the appliances was located, traced, and found intact with no damage to the blades. The freezer and pizza ovens sustained heat induced color change on the rear of the appliances and soot deposition on the west sides. See Figure 8.



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Figure 8: Photograph 81 - Freezer & Pizza Ovens

The south wall interior material behind the freezer was partially intact and upright. The material had smoke and soot staining to the surface. The staining and deposition was greater near the top than the bottom, behind the appliances.

Layering of the area continued on and around the prep station. The top of the prep station was covered in insulation and fire debris. Amongst the debris, the top component of a fire extinguisher was located. The plastic components underneath the lid of the prep station sustained melting and smoke and soot deposition. Food products were seen inside the prep station.

The rear of the prep station had visible oxidation, clean burn, heat induced color change, and smoke and soot deposition. The lower west corner sustained more clean burn than the rest of the rear of the prep station. Greater heat induced color change was viewed upon the west side compared to the east side of the prep station, with greater viewed at the rear versus the front of the sides. See Figure 9.



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Figure 9: Photograph 152 - Rear of Prep Station

Correlating damage was viewed upon the south wall that was behind the prep station. The wall was viewed upon the ground at the time of the examination. Greater damage to the lower portion of the wall, nearest to the lower west area on the rear side of the appliance. See Figure 10.



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Figure 10: Photograph 58 - Correlating Damage on Wall Behind Prep Station

In the rear of the prep station, near ground level were electrical components for the electric appliance. The combustible materials, such as wiring insulation and lightweight plastic components were charred and melted. Greater charring, melting, and mass loss was viewed in the west half compared to the east half. The non-combustible materials sustained oxidation and heat induced color change. See Figure 11.



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Figure 11: Photograph 108 - Electrical Components of the Prep Station

The prep station was labeled with 'Warning, This May Be Evidence', and left at the scene. See Figure 12.



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Figure 12: Photograph 153 - Prep Station

A Photoionization Detector (PID) was utilized during the layering process of the south area of the building and registered no elevated levels.

Interview #1:

Name: Nanette Edmondson

Interview Date: 08.04.2025

Notes: The following notes from an informational interview with Nanette Edmondson. Nanette Edmondson was the property owner. The interview took place on the property, The Pipe, in the parking lot. Nanette Edmondson was informed that they did not have to answer any questions, and they could withdraw from the interview at any time. The interview was non-custodial and was not recorded.

Nanette Edmondson described the appliances inside the kitchen as a steel table in the corner with a freezer on the east wall. Along the south wall, there were two 2-basket fryers, one 4 or 6 burner range, one charbroiler and one electric griddle underneath a hood suppression system. The char broiler and electric griddle were located on top of a drawer fridge. To the west of the appliances, two single pizza ovens were located. One pizza oven sat on top of a dry goods shelf unit and the second pizza oven sat on a freezer. Continuing west on the south wall, was



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a 6-foot prep station. The prep station was a fridge with front doors and top that lifted. Underneath the top, produce was stored.

A wall mounted air conditioning unit was located above the prep station and plugged into a receptacle in the corner. Outlets on the south wall were approximately counter height.

Nanette Edmondson reported that the south wall was covered with melamine along the whole wall and drywall was located on the ceiling and the floor was tile. Nanette Edmondson reported having cameras in the business but was unable to access any of the footage.

Nanette Edmondson reported being at the building around 4:00 pm and leaving the premises. Nanette Edmondson received a phone call around 4:54 pm regarding a fire. Nanette Edmondson reported being told the fire was coming from underneath the prep station.

Nanette Edmondson reported a kitchen expansion occurred in 2021 and had all the electrical upgraded at that time.

Nanette Edmondson described the prep station/fridge as not working and having a company out of Taylor, ND, fix it. The technician had fixed the could but was not comfortable with the fixed coils and ordered new coils for the unit. The new coils were installed 2-3 days prior to the fire. Nanette Edmondson reported the pizza prep station had not been used for approximately two weeks prior to the fire. The prep station was approximately two years old and Nanette Edmondson could not remember the brand or manufacture of the appliance.

Nanette Edmondson reported having insurance through White Pine/Revo.

Interview #2:

Name: Ryan Hauck

Interview Date: 08.04.2025

Notes: The following notes from an informational interview with Ryan Hauck. Ryan Hauck was the Fire Chief of West Dunn Fire Protection District. The interview took place in the parking lot of The Pipe. Fire Chief Ryan Hauck was informed that they did not have to answer any questions, and they could withdraw from the interview at any time. The interview was non-custodial and was not recorded.

Fire Chief Ryan Hauck reported burn patterns counter height and up, while the lower portion was black. The pattern was 'straight up' with no distinguishing 'V' or 'U' pattern. There were no melting patterns visible and a whiter color was viewed to the east end with more black around the pizza oven.

Smoke was seen exiting at the back door but no smoke was seen on the north side of the structure.

Fire Chief Ryan Hauck reported that heavy equipment was used to push the building on itself to keep it from being a hazard. Fire Chief Ryan Hauck requested that south wall was not pushed in and kept for the investigation. Some time during the days following the fire, prior to the State Fire Marshal's Office arriving on scene, the south wall (kitchen area) collapsed.



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Interview #3:	
Name:	Jonathan Avalos
Interview Date:	08.04.2025
Notes: The following notes from an informational interview with Jonathan Avalos. Jonathan Avalos was the Chief of Police with the Killdeer Police Department. The interview took place in the parking lot of The Pipe. Jonathan Avalos was informed that they did not have to answer any questions, and they could withdraw from the interview at any time. The interview was non-custodial and was not recorded.	
Police Chief Jonathan Avalos was first on scene at The Pipe. Police Chief Jonathan Avalos reported seeing heavy smoke at the south wall door, with flames extending from the doorway. Police Chief Jonathan Avalos reported flames extending from a window on the west side. Smoke extended out the south side and up over the roof towards the north. No injuries were reported with the fire. Police Chief Jonathan Avalos stated having video footage of arriving on the scene.	

Interview #4:	
Name:	Tyrel 'TJ' Edmonson
Interview Date:	08.04.2025
Notes: The following notes from an informational interview with TJ Edmonson. TJ Edmonson was a cook at The Pipe. The interview took place in the parking lot of The Pipe. TJ Edmondson was informed that they did not have to answer any questions, and they could withdraw from the interview at any time. The interview was non-custodial and was not recorded.	
TJ Edmondson detailed arriving at 4:00 pm and looking around the kitchen to see what needed to be prepped. Food orders were already coming in to be completed as well as a 'call in' order. The call in order consisted of steads, two double patty burgers, and a steak bomb. There was a medium well steak order to be completed as well. TJ Edmondson reported that while getting the food prepared on the cooktop, it started getting smokey in the kitchen. TJ Edmondson looked over (to the west) at the corner (intersection of the two walls), right underneath the air condition unit, and sway fire extend out from under the prep station. TJ Edmondson reported calling 911 as a co-worker (Lana Gordon) used a fire extinguisher on the fire.	
TJ Edmondson emphasized that the pizza ovens were not being used at the time of the fire, as there were no pizza orders at that time. TJ Edmondson smelled smoke while cooking burgers and steaks and looking over, saw fire.	

Interview #5:	
Name:	Lana Gordon
Interview Date:	08.04.2025
Notes: The following notes from an informational interview with Lana Gordon. Lana Gordon was an employee of The Pipe. The interview took place over the telephone in the parking lot of The Pipe. Lana Gordon was informed that they did not have to answer any questions, and they could withdraw from the interview at any time. The interview was non-custodial and was not recorded.	



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Lana Gordon reported being scheduled to work the shift starting at 5:00 pm to close. Lana Gordon was at The Pipe prior to the 5:00 pm start time. Lana Gordon was out front when 'kids' came out front stating there was a fire. Lana Gordon went into the kitchen and saw flames from underneath the pizza prep/fridge section. Lana Gordon grabbed the silver fire extinguisher to put out the fire. The fire kept coming back, 'licking' out. The room filled up very fast with black smoke. Lana Gordon repeated that the fire extended at the right front of the appliance, from underneath. Nothing seen from the backside or next to the wall.

Lana Gordon reiterated that Lana Gordon was out front behind the bar, tending, when alerted of the fire. Lana Gordon went through the bar walkthrough into the kitchen, looked immediately to grill and did not see a fire. It was in the corner.

Video:

Killdeer Police Department

- Body camera footage
 - Smoke extending from the south side of the structure
 - Structure still intact and upright

Weather Reviewed:

Weather data was reviewed for August 1, 2025, from approximately 4:00 PM to approximately 8:00 PM. The nearest recording station was located Dickinson, ND, and was approximately 38 miles away. The following information was learned:

Temperature Range: 72°F - 69°F - 66°F

Wind Speed: 18 MPH - 24 MPH - 13 MPH

Conditions: Partly Cloudy, Fair/Windy, Mostly Cloudy, Haze

The wind was from the east southeast.

The weather did not cause or impact the fire.

Weather data was reviewed from:

<https://www.wunderground.com/history/daily/us/nd/dickinson/KDIK/date/2025-8-1>

Times:

Hard Time Description	Time	Soft Time Description
	07.14-07.28.2025	Pizza prep station/fridge not in service (not used for approximately 2 weeks prior to fire)



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	07.28-07.30.2025	Pizza prep station/fridge fixed and back in service (repaired and in service approximately 2-3 days prior to the fire)
Date of the Fire	August 1, 2025	
	4:00 PM	Nanette Edmondson at The Pipe and leaving the premises
	4:00 PM	TJ Edmondson arriving at The Pipe – prepping for the shift and start cooking food orders
	4:00-4:50 PM	Pizza ovens not in use – no pizza orders Pizza prep station not in use for orders
	4:00-4:50 PM	TJ Edmondson cooking orders at the cooktop and noticing the kitchen getting smokey. TJ Edmondson unsure of the amount of time that had passed.
	4:30-4:45 PM	Lana Gordon arriving at The Pipe for the 5:00 PM shift start
	4:45-4:50 PM	Lana Gordon utilizing a silver (Class K) fire extinguisher on the fire
	4:50 PM	Nanette Edmondson reported receiving a phone call regarding The Pipe being on fire
	4:50-5:00 PM	TJ Edmondson called 911
West Dunn Fire Protection District dispatched for a structure fire	16:58 (4:58 PM)	
West Dunn Fire Protection District On Scene	17:05 (5:05 PM)	



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: NDSFM25-083

BATS ID: 1566498

Investigation Title: KILLDEER PIPE BAR & GRILL FIRE

West Dunn Fire Protection District Clear Scene	21:18 (9:18 PM)	
	08.04.2025	NDSFM Deputy on Scene

Evidence identified/collected/preserved:

No evidence was collected or removed from the scene by the North Dakota State Fire Marshal’s Office for this fire.

One item, a prep station/cooler appliance, was marked ‘Warning, This may Be Evidence’. The item was left at the scene.

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

Other Forms/Documents/Reports Reviewed:

RECALL

<https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls>

No recall information was found regarding commercial kitchen prep coolers.

- Unknown the brand/manufacturer at the time of the examination.

West Dunn Fire Protection District Fire Report

- Times
 - Dispatch Time: 16:58
 - On Scene: 17:05
 - Clear Scene: 21:18
- Reporting party stated the ‘fridge’ had started on fire
- Heavy dark smoke coming from south kitchen area
- Main disconnect was shut off by fire department
- All employees and customers accounted for

Area of Origin:

Based upon the systematic examination of the fire scene, the area of origin was determined to be along the south wall, in the kitchen, at/near the west underside of the prep station. The following supports this:



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Figure 13: Photograph 151

Fire Effects

- Greater amount of oxidation and heat induced color change to the rear side of the prep station compared to the front.
- Greater amount of clean burn to the rear west side than the east side of the prep station.
- Greater heat induced color change on the west side than the east side of the prep station.
- More charring and melting of wire insulation and plastic materials on the electrical components on the west than the east lower area of the prep station.

Fire Dynamics

- Greater amount of mass consumption to the structural membranes at the south end of the building than the center or north ends.
- Greater amount of charred structure materials at the south end compared to the center or north ends.
- Greater heat induced color change on the sides, near the rear of the prep station than the front.
- Greater charring and mass loss to the correlating wall in the lower west area compared to the rest of the wall.

Witness Statements

- Fire Chief Ryan Hauck stated the building was pushed in by heavy equipment, not collapsed due to the fire.
- Fire Chief Ryan Hauck reported smoke exiting on south end, not the north.



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- Police Chief Jonathan Avalos reported flames and smoke exiting the south door.
- TJ Edmondson reported seeing fire extending from underneath the prep station appliance.
- Land Gordon reported seeing fire extending from underneath the prep station appliance.

Cause Hypothesis Development and Testing:

The following was identified as the most credible potential fire causes within the area of origin:

- 1) Overheating of grease laden vapors produced during cooking on a cooktop igniting and extending to nearby combustible materials.
 - Restaurant had been open and preparing food during the day prior to the fire.
 - Food, such as burgers and steaks, were being cooked on the grill prior to the discovery of the fire.
 - No reports of the hood suppression system over the cooktop actuating from a cooking fire.
 - Fire was witnessed coming out from underneath the prep station, not on top of a cook top.
 - TJ Edmondson was at the grill cooking food and noticed the fire in the corner (to the west), extending from underneath the prep station.
 - Lana Gordon reported entering the kitchen and not seeing a fire at the grill area, the fire was in the corner, extending from under the prep station.
 - Fire Chief Ryan Hauck reported burn patterns and smoke/soot at the pizza over and prep station area versus fire patterns at the grill area.
 - This hypothesis can be eliminated.

- 2) Overheating of an electrical component or wiring of the prep station appliance resulting in sufficient heat for a duration capable of igniting available combustible materials, such as lightweight plastic material or wire insulation.
 - The items inside the prep station sustained smoke and soot deposition but were intact with no fire impingement.
 - The electrical components underneath the prep station sustained melting and charring.
 - Greater oxidation and clean burn was viewed on west side of the rear of the prep station than the east side.
 - Correlating damage was viewed upon the wall behind the prep station.
 - The prep station had been worked on approximately 2-3 days prior to the fire and put back into service.
 - The prep station had not been in used for approximately two weeks prior to the fire.
 - Prep station was put back into service with new coils.
 - Adjacent appliances sustained fire impingement from the west to the east. The western most pizza oven had more damage than the eastern most pizza oven.
 - Line cords were located intact and plugged into receptacles.
 - Pizza ovens were not in use at the time of the fire.
 - Food was being prepared on the grill at the time of the fire; the hood suppression system did not actuate from a cooking fire.



North Dakota State Fire Marshals Office (ND)



INCIDENT ORIGIN & CAUSE NARRATIVE

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Investigation Title: KILLDEER PIPE BAR & GRILL FIRE

- TJ Edmondson was at the grill cooking steaks and burgers prior to discovering the fire.
- Fire was witnessed coming out from underneath the prep station, not on top of a cook top.
 - TJ Edmondson was at the grill cooking food and noticed the fire in the corner (to the west), extending from underneath the prep station.
 - Lana Gordon reported entering the kitchen and not seeing a fire at the grill area, the fire was in the corner, extending from under the prep station.
- Fire Chief reported burn patterns and smoke/soot at the pizza over and prep station area versus fire patterns at the grill area.
 - Greater damage was viewed near the prep station
- This hypothesis cannot be eliminated.

Final Hypothesis/Conclusion:

The area of origin was along the south wall, in the kitchen, at/near the west underside of the prep station.

Based upon the systematic examination of the fire scene, fire patterns, witness statements, and physical evidence the cause of the fire was overheating of an electrical component or wiring of the prep station appliance resulting in sufficient heat for a duration capable of igniting available combustible materials, such as lightweight plastic material or wire insulation.

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