



Massachusetts State Police
Case Master Report 2022-117-170

Date Initiated 03/03/2022

Primary Information

Agency: **Massachusetts State Police**
Bureau: **Division of Investigative Services**
Division: **Investigative Services 1**
Unit / Troop: **Fire & Explosion Investigation**
Squad / Barracks: **Fire Investigation Southeast Team**
Lead LEO: **Myers, Daniel T (MSP4190 / Fire Investigation Southeast Team / Massachusetts State Police)**
Type Of Case: **Fire Investigation**
Case Sub Type: **Undetermined**
Case Description: **Fire Investigation- 16 Chapman Ave, Oak Bluffs**
Case Priority: **Medium**

Tips

<u>Number</u>	<u>Entry Date</u>	<u>Occurred Date</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Description</u>
2022-42469	03/04/2022 00:03	---	Closed	---

Case Status

Case Status: **Closed**
Case Status Date: **06/02/2022**
Disposition Code: **Closed/Completed**
Disposition Date: **06/02/2022**
Dissemination: **Chain of Command**



Massachusetts State Police
FIRE INVESTIGATION REPORT 2022-117-170

Report Date: 03/03/2022

Primary Information

Description: **Fire Investigation- 16 Chapman Ave, Oak Bluffs**
Dissemination Code: **report respect the security of its associated case**
Reporting LEO: **Myers, Daniel T (MSP4190 / Fire Investigation Southeast Team / Massachusetts State Police)**
Backup LEO: **Berteletti, Thomas (msp2708 / Fire Investigation Southeast Team / Massachusetts State Police)**
Report Status: **Approved**
Report Status Date: **05/05/2022**
Approved By: **Berteletti, Thomas (msp2708 / Massachusetts State Police)**
Discovered/Reported: **Fire Alarm**
Requester: **Oak Bluffs Fire Department**
Cause Of Fire: **Undetermined**
COF Subcategory: **Undetermined**
Injuries/Fatalities: **None**
K9: **YES**

Response Information

Time Call Received: **03/03/2022 09:49**
Time Dispatched: **03/03/2022 12:45**
Time Arrived: **03/03/2022 15:30**
Time Completed: **03/03/2022 21:30**

Property Information

Property Description: **1.5 story wood frame, restaurant**
Property Use: **Commercial**
Mobile: **NO**
Single/Multi Story: **Other**
Square Footage: **15246**
Smoke Detectors: **YES**
Heat Detectors: **UNKNOWN**
Sprinklers: **NO**
CO: **UNKNOWN**
Occupied: **NO**
Abandoned: **NO**
Estimated Value: **\$2,000,000.00**
Estimated Loss: **\$2,000,000.00**
Type Of Insurance: **Commercial**
State Property: **No**

Fire Origin Information

<u>Area/Origin</u>	<u>Description</u>
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FIRE INVESTIGATION REPORT 2022-117-170

Report Date: 03/03/2022

Fire Origin Information - Continued

<u>Area/Origin</u>	<u>Description</u>
Interior	A side, Main entrance ceiling

Insurance Information

Insured:	SANTORO, MICHAEL J
Insurance Company:	Lloyd's of London
Insurance Agent:	Bernard, Zack

Synopsis

On Thursday, March 3, 2022, the Oak Bluffs Fire Department requested assistance with a fire investigation at 16 Chapman Ave. Sgt Berteletti, Tpr Myers, Tpr Colella, and Tpr Garfield (CSSS) responded to the incident. At the scene, we met with Sgt Mackin, Tpr Shaw, and Deputy Chief Foster and a joint investigation was conducted. Scene examination and interviews were completed. This incident involved a 1.5 half story commercial structure that was unoccupied at the time of the fire. Heavy fire damage was observed throughout the attic and inside the A side main entrance to the structure. Large sections of the roof closer to the A side had collapsed. At this time the fire is being ruled undetermined. An unspecified electrical event in the attic near the A side main entrance could not be ruled out, nor could a portable heater located just inside the A side main entrance. This case remains open pending further investigation.

Subject #1 - VICTIM #1 - SANTORO, MICHAEL J

Primary Information

Subject Name:	SANTORO, MICHAEL J
Record Type:	PERSON
Bio:	(c)
Birth Date:	(c)
Juvenile:	(c)

Relationship Information

Victim Type:	(c)
Extent Of Injury:	(c)

Personal Information

Height:	(c)
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Addresses

<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Address</u>
MAILING ADDRESS	(c)

Telephones / E-Addresses

<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Number/E-Address</u>
USER - COMMERCIAL RECORD SOURCED	(c)



Massachusetts State Police
FIRE INVESTIGATION REPORT 2022-117-170

Report Date: 03/03/2022

Subject #2 - OWNER #1 - HAJJAR, CHARLES CHRISTOPHER

Primary Information

Subject Name: **HAJJAR, CHARLES CHRISTOPHER**
Record Type: **PERSON**
Bio: (c) [REDACTED]
Birth Date: (c) [REDACTED]
Juvenile: (c) [REDACTED]

Relationship Information

Extent Of Injury: (c) [REDACTED]

Personal Information

Height: (c) [REDACTED]

Addresses

<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Address</u>
MAILING ADDRESS	(c) [REDACTED]

Subject #3 - OWNER #2 - SANTORO, MICHAEL J

Primary Information

Subject Name: **SANTORO, MICHAEL J**
Record Type: **PERSON**
Bio: (c) [REDACTED] **Unknown, MALE**
Birth Date: (c) [REDACTED]
Juvenile: (c) [REDACTED]

Relationship Information

Extent Of Injury: (c) [REDACTED]

Personal Information

Height: (c) [REDACTED]

Addresses

<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Address</u>
MAILING ADDRESS	(c) [REDACTED]

Telephones / E-Addresses

<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Number/E-Address</u>
USER - COMMERCIAL RECORD SOURCED	(c) [REDACTED]

Officers

LEO
Colella, James M. (msp3557 / Fire Investigation Southeast Team / Massachusetts State Police)
Shaw, Dustin (Massachusetts State Police Cape and Islands SPDU)
Garfield, Beth E (msp3798 / Crime Scene Services Bourne / Massachusetts State Police)
Mackin, David (msp2548 / D5 State Police Oak Bluffs / Massachusetts State Police)



Massachusetts State Police
FIRE INVESTIGATION REPORT 2022-117-170

Report Date: 03/03/2022

Narrative begins on the following page.

Introduction:

1. On Thursday, March 3, 2022 at approximately 0952, the Oak Bluffs Fire Department responded to 16 Chapman Ave for a report of a structure fire. Fire and smoke alarms were present inside the building which alerted the Central Station Alarm Company, who then notified Dukes County Communication Center. Emergency personal were then dispatched to the scene. The weather at the time of the alarm was partly cloudy skies and the temperature was approximately 40 degrees. The site of the alarm was a 1.5 story wood frame structure. The structure is a restaurant that was temporarily closed for minor renovations. The structure was unoccupied at the time of the fire.
2. A working fire was ordered by the fire department. Suppression operations were immediately begun. The fire was not quickly extinguished and quickly went to 3 alarms. Initially, Oak Bluffs Fire Captain John O'Donnell was the incident commander and Deputy Fire Chief Stephen Foster took over command operations around noon time. There were no deaths and no injuries as a result of the fire. The fire did not extend to any adjoining properties. The fire caused extensive damage to the entire structure.
3. On Thursday, March 3, 2022, the State Police Fire and Explosion Investigation Unit was notified of this fire by the DHQ duty office. I, Tpr. Myers (FEIU) responded to the incident along with Sgt. Berteletti (FEIU), and Tpr. Colella and AK9 Folton (FEIU). I was assisted by Tpr. Garfield (CSSS) who photographed the scene. At the scene, we met with Sgt. Mackin (D5), Tpr. Shaw (Cape and Islands SPDU), and Deputy Chief Foster and a joint investigation was conducted. As a result of this investigation, the fire has been ruled undetermined.

Building Information:

1. The site of the fire was a 1.5 story wood frame with wood shingle siding and asphalt roof shingles. The structure was used as a restaurant and has approximately 15,000 square feet of space. The structure faces east onto Chapman Ave.
2. (f) [REDACTED]
3. (f) [REDACTED]
4. (f) [REDACTED]

Witness Statements:

1. The investigation conducted several interviews with witnesses. The first one on scene was Oak Bluffs Police Officer Christopher Wiggin. Officer Wiggin was interviewed on scene. He stated as he arrived on scene, he observed heavy smoke puffing out of the A side middle of the structure. He didn't observe any vehicles in the parking lot and did not see any doors that appeared to be open.
2. The first fire personnel on scene was Captain Medeiros and Medic Davey. Captain O'Donnell arrived shortly after with the first due engine 523. Captain O'Donnell stated upon doing a 360 of the building, he noticed heavy smoke coming from the A side of the building near the dining room entrance. As fire units went to start venting the building, the fire self-vented through the A side roof near the dining room entrance. According to fire personnel, no doors were unlocked and forced entry was made into all doors of the structure.
3. (f) [REDACTED]
4. (f) [REDACTED]
5. (f) [REDACTED]
6. (f) [REDACTED]

Fire Scene Examination:

1. On March 3, 2022 at approximately 1530, an examination of the fire scene was conducted by Sgt. Bertiletti, Tpr. Colella, and I, Tpr. Myers. Special assistance was provided by Sgt. Mackin

(D6), Tpr. Shaw (Cape and Islands SPDU), and Tpr. Garfield (CSSS) who photographed the scene. Entry into the premises was made immediately after fire suppression.

2. Exterior examination of the fire site revealed the roof in the middle of the building, closest to the A side had completely burned away/collapsed. Interior examination was conducted beginning in areas of least damage, toward areas of heaviest damage. This process revealed that the lowest and most substantial area of fire damage was located just inside the main entrance of the structure, which was the lobby and hostess desk area for the restaurant. With the exception of this area, the major damage had been contained to the attic and roof of the structure. The joists above the lobby area sustained heavy damage and some of them were completely burned away.
3. The investigation revealed the low burn area was the main lobby and hostess desk area for the restaurant. The hostess desk was in the A/B corner of the lobby. There were numerous electrical appliances in the area including a register and a portable heater. These could not be ruled out as potential ignition sources. There were also numerous electrical switches witch contained about 12-14 light dimmers, according to the owner, Mike Santoro. These could also not be ruled out as potential ignition sources. On the C side of the lobby was a large fish tank which according the owner had been shut off and there were no fish or water inside the tank. Underneath the fish tank was a small cabinet with PVC piping and an electrical power strip. There was very little damage inside this cabinet. The power strip was intact with very little damage and was subsequently ruled out as an ignition source. Numerous BX cables were found hanging from the ceiling in the area of origin. The wires had varying degrees of damage to them and could not be ruled out as ignition sources.
4. Tpr. Colella deployed AK9 Folton in the area of origin with negative results. See Tpr. Colella's AK9 report.

Security and Fire Protection:

1. According to interviews with the first fire and police assets on scene, none of the doors to the structure were open and the fire department had to force entry into all of the doors. All of the windows also appeared to be intact upon arrival of the first assets. The structure was outfitted with a fire alarm system. The system appeared to work as it was supposed to. During the fire, the system detected smoke and an alarm went through to the Central Station Alarm Company. The Central Station Alarm Company then notified Dukes County Communication Center.

Conclusions:

1. Based upon the information developed through the investigation, it is this the collective opinion of the investigators that the area of origin was in the ceiling of the lobby/ hostess area, inside the main entrance to the building on the A side. Further, it is the collective opinion of the investigators that this fire was accidental in nature, with the most likely cause being and unspecified electrical event. There is no evidence of criminal activity at this time. This case will remain undetermined.
2. I respectfully request that this case be closed pending any further discoveries that should warrant its reopening.



Massachusetts State Police

ACCELERANT DETECTION K-9 REPORT 2022-117-170/1

Report Date: 03/04/2022

Primary Information

Description: **16 Chapman Ave, oaks Bluffs**
Dissemination Code: **report respect the security of its associated case**
Reporting LEO: **Colella, James M. (msp3557 / Fire Investigation Southeast Team / Massachusetts State Police)**
Report Status: **Approved**
Report Status Date: **03/17/2022**
Approved By: **Berteletti, Thomas (msp2708 / Massachusetts State Police)**

Synopsis

On Thursday, March 3, 2021, I responded to 16 Chapman Ave in Oak Bluffs (MV) to assist Sgt. Berteletti and Tpr. Myers with an ongoing fire investigation to the Ocean View Restaurant & Tavern. During the course of the investigation AK-9 Fulton was deployed into the scene to search for the presence of ignitable liquids. This search provided negative results.