



ATF/CFI REPORTS OF INVESTIGATION:

ATF Case Title: Fire 7809 Winans Lake Rd. Hamburg Township, MI.

ATF Case Number: 774020-20-0018

Scene Address: 7809 Winans Lake Rd. Hamburg Township, Michigan

Dates: December 11, 2019, and December 16, 2019

Reports Authored by: SA/CFI Mike Stassi, (313) 600-1356

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Any and all inquiries related to this incident should be directed to ATF SA/CFI Mike Stassi at (313) 600-1356 and email: michael.stassi@ATF.gov.



Report of Investigation

Title of Investigation: Fire 7809 Winans Lake Rd. Hamburg Township, MI	Investigation Number: 774020-20-0018	Report Number: 1
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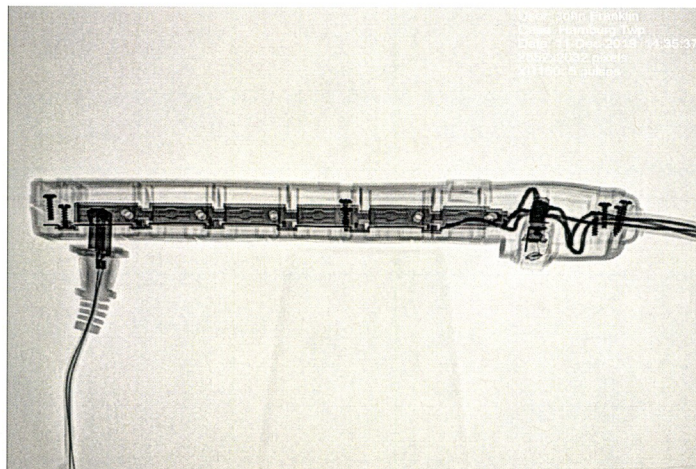
SUMMARY OF EVENT:

FIRE SCENE AND EVIDENCE EXAMINATION: On November 19, 2019, the Hamburg Township Fire Department (HTFD) responded to a residential structure fire at 7809 Winans Lake Rd. in Hamburg Township, MI. A subsequent origin and cause investigation was initiated by members of the Hamburg Township Police and Fire Departments and evidence was collected. On December 11, 2019, members of ATF, assisted the noted departments with an additional fire scene and evidence examination.

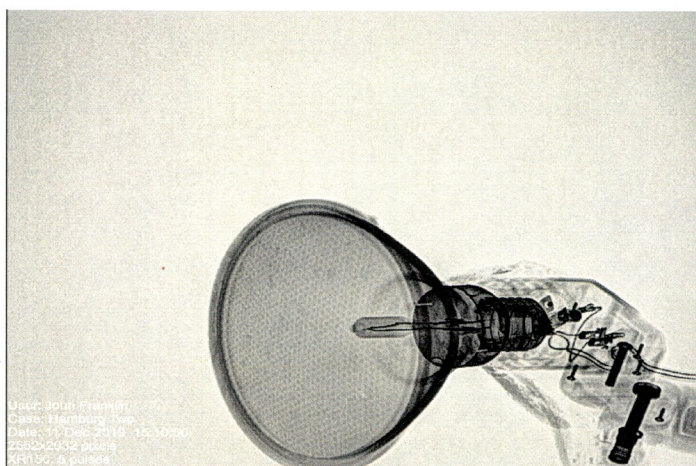
NARRATIVE:

1. On November 19, 2019, the Hamburg Township Fire Department (HTFD) responded to a structure fire at the residential address of 7809 Winans Lake Rd in Hamburg Township, MI. The fire resulted in heavy, localized thermal and smoke damage to the interior, basement of the residence. A subsequent origin and cause investigation was initiated by investigators with the Hamburg Township Police and Fire Departments. During the noted investigation the remains of a halogen lamp, along with a plastic pan of motor oil, a power strip and cloth materials were recovered as evidence.
2. On December 11, 2019, members of ATF were requested to further examine the noted evidence items and fire scene. On this same date, ATF Special Agent/Certified Explosive Specialist/Bomb Technician (SA/CES/BT) John Franklin, along with Special Agent/ Certified Fire Investigator (SA/CFI) Mike Stassi traveled to the Hamburg Township Police Department, located at 10409 Merrill Rd. Hamburg Township, MI to conduct an evidence exam.
3. Upon examining and x-raying the recovered items of evidence, investigators noted that both the power strip and the light fixture were in what appeared to be the "on" position. Furthermore, the affected halogen lamp, which was found secured within the light fixture, was removed, examined and identified as a GE brand 80 watt/120 volt halogen bulb. Comparison examinations of the fire damage, sustained by the noted electrical items, revealed the presence of both thermal and smoke exposure damage. Furthermore, review of the fire scene photographs, documenting the placement of the cloth materials and pan of oil, indicate that these combustibles were positioned near the light fixture to intentionally set a fire.

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Authorized by: Terry Schimke	Title: Group Supervisor, Detroit III Field Office	Signature:	Date:
Second level reviewer (optional): James M. Deir	Title: Special Agent in Charge, Detroit Field Division	Signature:	Date:



X-RAY IMAGES AND PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE RECOVERED POWER STRIP



X-RAY IMAGES AND PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE RECOVERED LIGHT FIXTURE

4. After reviewing the above mentioned information, investigators traveled to the fire scene, located at 7809 Winans Lake Rd in Hamburg Township, MI, and conducted a limited fire scene examination. During the fire scene examination, investigators noted two (2) localized areas of fire damage, found within the basement of the residence. One (1) area of damage was confined to a portion of the ceiling joists, located on the east side of the basement, while the other area of damage was located underneath the basement stairway.
5. Upon documenting the noted damage, investigators determined that an additional fire scene examination would be required to further excavate and examine the basement and to determine an area of fire origin. Furthermore, prior to leaving the fire scene, the structure's smoke detectors were retained as evidence by the Hamburg Police Department. The noted detectors were all found to be operational and alerting at the time of recovery.
6. At this time, the investigation is ongoing.

END OF REPORT

Report of Investigation

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SUMMARY OF EVENT:

FIRE INVESTIGATION: On December 16, 2019, ATF Special Agent/ Certified Fire Investigator (SA/CFI) Mike Stassi assisted members of the Hamburg Police and Fire Departments with a fire scene examination of 7809 Winans Lake Rd in Hamburg Township, MI. Based on this examination, the official cause of the fire was classified as *incendiary*.

NARRATIVE:

1. On November 19, 2019, the Hamburg Township Fire Department (HTFD) responded to a structure fire at the residential address of 7809 Winans Lake Rd in Hamburg Township, MI. Following fire suppression, an origin and cause investigation into the fire incident was initiated and ATF assistance was requested by the Hamburg Township Police and Fire Departments.
2. On December 11, 2019, an initial examination of the fire scene was conducted by members of ATF. Additionally, x-ray images of evidence, previously collected from the fire scene, were obtained by an ATF Special Agent /Certified Explosive Specialist/Bomb Technician (SA/CES/BT).
3. On December 16, 2019, ATF Special Agent/ Certified Fire Investigator (SA/CFI) Mike Stassi assisted members of the Hamburg Police and Fire Departments with a final fire scene examination of the noted residence.
4. During the fire scene examination the following information was documented:
 - A. The involved structure is a two (2) story residence with an attic, basement and living space on the main and upper levels. The structure is wood frame constructed, utilizing wooden studs and beams that sit on a raised concrete foundation. The roof of the structure is pitched in design and finished with composite asphalt shingles.
 - B. Prior to the fire, the electrical and natural gas services to the structure were both connected and functional. Furthermore, the structure was occupied at the time of the incident, with no known injuries reported to date.
 - C. The exterior of the structure was examined and found to have sustained localized smoke and thermal damage affecting the siding, which covered portions of the north side exterior. Further review of the

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noted damage revealed that it was the result of fire by-products venting from the interior of the residence and not fire origin. The fire incident did not originate on the exterior of the structure.

- D. The interior of the structure was examined and compared. Two (2) localized areas of fire damage were observed within the basement of the residence. One (1) area of damage was confined to a portion of the ceiling joists, located on the east side of the basement, while the other area of damage was located underneath the basement stairway. The remaining portions of the interior were found to have additional, but lessening smoke and thermal damage. Comparison examinations of the fire damage, located outside of the basement noted that the observed damage was the result of fire progression and not fire origin.
 - E. The basement of the structure was excavated and further examined. During this excavation the presence of a large irregular burn pattern was observed on the east side flooring of the basement. This pattern aligned with the previously noted damage, observed on the east side, basement ceiling joists. Additionally, examination of the fire damage, located under the basement stairway noted that the damage to this area was separate and distinct from the damage, documented on the east side of the basement.
 - F. Samples of the basement flooring were obtained by investigators as evidence and will be further examined for the presence of ignitable liquids by the Michigan State Police (MSP) Forensic Laboratory. Furthermore, the electrical conductors of the basement, located within the areas of fire origin, were examined and displayed no indicators that they contributed to the cause of the fire.
5. Based on the information available to the investigators at the time of this report, and after the examination of the fire scene, it is the opinion of SA/CFI Stassi, along with other investigators, that the fire incident had two (2) separate and distinct areas of interior fire origin. One (1) fire originated near the east side of the basement, while the other fire originated under the basement staircase, positioned towards the middle of the structure.
6. Pending additional witness statements and a laboratory analysis of the collected evidence, the cause of this fire will be classified as *incendiary*.
7. ATF provided technical assistance with the origin and cause of this fire scene and will assist with the follow up investigation, as needed.

END OF REPORT