



CITY OF COLUMBIA MO FIRE DEPARTMENT

Incident Report

Incident Number
2311415

Incident type
Building fire

PSAP Call Date/Time
09/15/2023 12:47:16

Officer in Charge
MARTIN, PETER, FIRE BATTALION CHIEF, Battalion Chief 2

Incident Address 5 S NINTH ST, 202, COLUMBIA, MO, 65201	County --	Fire Zone 15S WD 5811
Property Type Business office. Includes engineering, architectural, and technical offices. Excludes military offices (631).	Additional Property Type Assembly, other.	Property Status In normal use

Dispatch Information	
Alarm Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:47:16

Incident Location Information

Structure Type	Enclosed building	Property Status	In normal use
Property Loss	250,000	Contents Loss	100,000
Floors Above Grade	3	Floors Below Grade	1
Length	90	Width	40
Area	14400	Presence of Detectors	None present
Presence of AES	None Present		

Response**Department Unit 1 of 17**

Apparatus Name	Air Truck	Dispatch Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:54:38
Type	Breathing apparatus support	Acknowledge Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:54:38
# of Crewmembers	1	En Route Date/Time	09/15/2023 13:03:40
Use	Other	Arrive Date/Time	09/15/2023 13:14:00
ALS Support Capable	No	Clear Date/Time	09/15/2023 15:02:17
Location at Dispatch	Assigned station	Back in Service Date/Time	09/15/2023 15:02:17
Crewmembers	Lingle, Tyler C		

Response**Department Unit 2 of 17**

Apparatus Name	Assistant Fire Chief - Chief 3	Dispatch Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:50:11
Type	Chief officer car	Acknowledge Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:50:11
# of Crewmembers	1	En Route Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:52:00
Use	Other	Arrive Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:54:12
ALS Support Capable	No	Clear Date/Time	09/15/2023 16:15:22
Location at Dispatch	Assigned station	Back in Service Date/Time	09/15/2023 16:15:22
Crewmembers	JENKINS, JERRY		

Response**Department Unit 3 of 17**

Apparatus Name	Assistant Fire Chief - Chief 4	Dispatch Date/Time	09/15/2023 13:04:48
Type	Chief officer car	Acknowledge Date/Time	09/15/2023 13:04:48
# of Crewmembers	1	En Route Date/Time	09/15/2023 13:04:48
Use	Other	Arrive Date/Time	09/15/2023 13:04:48
ALS Support Capable	No	Clear Date/Time	09/15/2023 15:47:52
Location at Dispatch	Assigned station	Back in Service Date/Time	09/15/2023 15:47:52
Crewmembers	HEIDENREICH, JEFFREY		

Response**Department Unit 4 of 17**

Apparatus Name	Battalion Chief 12	Dispatch Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:50:13
Type	Chief officer car	Acknowledge Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:50:13
# of Crewmembers	1	En Route Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:51:30
Use	Suppression	Arrive Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:56:53
ALS Support Capable	No	Clear Date/Time	09/15/2023 16:15:12
Location at Dispatch	Assigned station	Back in Service Date/Time	09/15/2023 16:15:12
Crewmembers	RITCHIE, DOUGLAS		

Response**Department Unit 5 of 17**

Apparatus Name	Battalion Chief 2	Dispatch Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:50:11
Type	Chief officer car	Acknowledge Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:50:11
# of Crewmembers	1	En Route Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:51:07
Use	Other	Arrive Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:51:37
ALS Support Capable	No	Clear Date/Time	09/15/2023 16:29:04
Location at Dispatch	Assigned station	Back in Service Date/Time	09/15/2023 16:29:04
Crewmembers	MARTIN, PETER		

Response**Department Unit 6 of 17**

Apparatus Name	Engine 1	Dispatch Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:50:11
Type	Engine	Acknowledge Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:50:11
# of Crewmembers	3	En Route Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:51:47
Use	Suppression	Arrive Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:52:39
ALS Support Capable	No	Clear Date/Time	09/15/2023 17:37:41
Location at Dispatch	Assigned station	Back in Service Date/Time	09/15/2023 17:37:41
Crewmembers	PAULEY, JOEL NOORDSY, SHAWN WHITEHOUSE, CALLAN		

Response**Department Unit 7 of 17**

Apparatus Name	Engine 2	Dispatch Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:50:12
Type	Engine	Acknowledge Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:50:12
# of Crewmembers	3	En Route Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:50:44
Use	Suppression	Arrive Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:55:54
ALS Support Capable	No	Clear Date/Time	09/15/2023 16:56:58
Location at Dispatch	Assigned station	Back in Service Date/Time	09/15/2023 16:56:58
Crewmembers	HOWELL, TYLER KOME, GREGORY THURMAN, CODY		

Response**Department Unit 8 of 17**

Apparatus Name	Ladder 1	Dispatch Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:50:11
Type	Truck or aerial	Acknowledge Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:50:11
# of Crewmembers	3	En Route Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:51:56
Use	Suppression	Arrive Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:52:31
ALS Support Capable	No	Clear Date/Time	09/15/2023 16:40:57
Location at Dispatch	Assigned station	Back in Service Date/Time	09/15/2023 16:40:57
Crewmembers	PLASSMEYER, CRAIG LANE, ANDREW PRIVETTE, ZACHARY		

Response**Department Unit 9 of 17**

Apparatus Name	Ladder 2	Dispatch Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:50:13
Type	Truck or aerial	Acknowledge Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:50:13
# of Crewmembers	3	En Route Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:50:27
Use	Suppression	Arrive Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:57:37
ALS Support Capable	No	Clear Date/Time	09/15/2023 14:35:48
Location at Dispatch	Assigned station	Back in Service Date/Time	09/15/2023 14:35:48
Crewmembers	LONG, ANDREW KANDLIK, JAMES BERCK, JUSTIN		

Response**Department Unit 10 of 17**

Apparatus Name	Marshal 2	Dispatch Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:47:16
Type	Other apparatus/resource	Acknowledge Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:47:16
# of Crewmembers	1	En Route Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:47:16
Use	Other	Arrive Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:49:16
ALS Support Capable	No	Clear Date/Time	09/15/2023 19:00:00
Location at Dispatch	Assigned station	Back in Service Date/Time	09/15/2023
Crewmembers	GOODMAN, WALTER R		

Response**Department Unit 11 of 17**

Apparatus Name	Marshal 4	Dispatch Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:58:16
Type	Other apparatus/resource	Acknowledge Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:58:16
# of Crewmembers	1	En Route Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:58:16
Use	Other	Arrive Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:58:16
ALS Support Capable	No	Clear Date/Time	09/15/2023 16:56:08
Location at Dispatch	Assigned station	Back in Service Date/Time	09/15/2023 16:56:08
Crewmembers	RIGGS, STEVEN		

Response**Department Unit 12 of 17**

Apparatus Name	Quint 3	Dispatch Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:50:12
Type	Quint	Acknowledge Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:50:12
# of Crewmembers	3	En Route Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:52:09
Use	Suppression	Arrive Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:55:06
ALS Support Capable	No	Clear Date/Time	09/15/2023 16:40:33
Location at Dispatch	Assigned station	Back in Service Date/Time	09/15/2023 16:40:33
Crewmembers	MCCOLLOM, SHAWN Park, Trevor M ROSS, KELLY		

Response**Department Unit 13 of 17**

Apparatus Name	Quint 5	Dispatch Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:54:38
Type	Quint	Acknowledge Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:54:38
# of Crewmembers	3	En Route Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:55:45
Use	Suppression	Arrive Date/Time	09/15/2023 13:04:33
ALS Support Capable	No	Clear Date/Time	09/15/2023 14:05:01
Location at Dispatch	Assigned station	Back in Service Date/Time	09/15/2023 14:05:01
Crewmembers	HENDREN, ANDREW C KEHRER, EDWARD MOORE, JUSTIN		

Response**Department Unit 14 of 17**

Apparatus Name	Quint 7	Dispatch Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:54:38
Type	Quint	Acknowledge Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:54:38
# of Crewmembers	3	En Route Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:56:12
Use	Suppression	Arrive Date/Time	09/15/2023 13:01:37
ALS Support Capable	No	Clear Date/Time	09/15/2023 14:58:12
Location at Dispatch	Assigned station	Back in Service Date/Time	09/15/2023 14:58:12
Crewmembers	STRONG, BRIAN RASMUSSEN, TYLER STRAWN, JORDAN		

Response**Department Unit 15 of 17**

Apparatus Name	Quint 9	Dispatch Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:54:38
Type	Quint	Acknowledge Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:54:38
# of Crewmembers	3	En Route Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:56:34
Use	Suppression	Arrive Date/Time	09/15/2023 13:01:18
ALS Support Capable	No	Clear Date/Time	09/15/2023 14:03:42
Location at Dispatch	Assigned station	Back in Service Date/Time	09/15/2023 14:03:42
Crewmembers	HARRIS, RICHARD E Perry, Caleb D BUNTON, MATTHEW J		

Response**Department Unit 16 of 17**

Apparatus Name	Safety 1	Dispatch Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:50:11
Type	Other apparatus/resource	Acknowledge Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:50:11
# of Crewmembers	1	En Route Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:51:29
Use	Other	Arrive Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:52:33
ALS Support Capable	No	Clear Date/Time	09/15/2023 17:37:41
Location at Dispatch	Assigned station	Back in Service Date/Time	09/15/2023 17:37:41
Crewmembers	SIMMONS, JOSEPH		

Response**Department Unit 17 of 17**

Apparatus Name	Squad 3	Dispatch Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:50:12
Type	Rescue unit	Acknowledge Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:50:12
# of Crewmembers	2	En Route Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:52:25
Use	Other	Arrive Date/Time	09/15/2023 12:55:53
ALS Support Capable	No	Clear Date/Time	09/15/2023 16:20:12
Location at Dispatch	Assigned station	Back in Service Date/Time	09/15/2023 16:20:12
Crewmembers	O'BRIEN, TIMOTHY BRAKE, ANTHONY		

Person Involved**Arin Liberman. - 1 of 13**

Incident Involvement	Involved Person	Primary Phone	(202) 714-4934
Age	39 Years	Gender	Female

Person Involved**MR Auben Galloway. - 2 of 13**

Incident Involvement	Involved Person	Primary Phone	(573) 819-4187 (mobile)
Gender	Male		

Person Involved**MS Chloe Trayner. - 3 of 13**

Incident Involvement	Involved Person	Primary Phone	(573) 303-7672 (mobile)
Age	33 Years	Gender	Female

Person Involved**Deborah Rust. - 4 of 13**

Incident Involvement	Involved Person	Primary Phone	(573) 424-4017 (mobile)
Age	52 Years	Gender	Female

Person Involved**MS Emily Edwards. - 5 of 13**

Incident Involvement	Involved Person	Primary Phone	(610) 969-9022 (mobile)
Age	31 Years	Gender	Female

Person Involved**MS Faramola Shanekan. - 6 of 13**

Incident Involvement	Involved Person	Primary Phone	(630) 456-8424 (mobile)
Age	25 Years	Gender	Female

Person Involved**MS Grace Piontek. - 7 of 13**

Incident Involvement	Involved Person	Primary Phone	(928) 606-1106 (mobile)
Age	31 Years	Gender	Female

Person Involved**MS Lindsey Arrington. - 8 of 13**

Incident Involvement	Involved Person	Primary Phone	(573) 239-3212
Age	35 Years	Gender	Female

Person Involved**MS Lori Thweatt. - 9 of 13**

Incident Involvement	Involved Person	Primary Phone	(573) 356-6589 (mobile)
Age	62 Years	Gender	Female

Person Involved**MS Natalie Hantak. - 10 of 13**

Incident Involvement	Involved Person	Primary Phone	(314) 378-3005 (mobile)
Age	34 Years	Gender	Female

Person Involved**MS Ouma Amadou. - 11 of 13**

Incident Involvement	Involved Person	Primary Phone	(573) 268-3943 (mobile)
Age	28 Years	Gender	Female

Person Involved**MR Paul Schenck. - 12 of 13**

Incident Involvement	Involved Person	Primary Phone	(303) 862-2126 (mobile)
Age	31 Years	Gender	Male

Person Involved**Tamara Barrett. - 13 of 13**

Incident Involvement	Involved Person	Primary Phone	(573) 673-2108 (mobile)
Age	49 Years	Gender	Female

Weather Information

Temperature	79.5 °F	Wind Speed	0.45 mph
Wind Direction	North	Humidity	33%
Weather Type	Clear, less than 1/10 cloud cover		

Fire Information

# of Buildings involved	2	Area of Fire Origin	Common room, den, family room, living room, lounge
Floor of Origin	2	Cause of Ignition	Cause undetermined after investigation
Factors contributing to ignition	None	Human Factors contributing to ignition	None
Heat Source	Undetermined	Fire Spread	Confined to building of origin
Item first Ignited	Undetermined	Equipment Involved in Ignition	No
Vehicle involved in Incident?	No	Acres burned	Less than one

Hazardous Materials Information

HazMat Released	None	Equipment Involved in Release?	No
Vehicle Involved in Release?	No		

Actions Taken**Department**

Extinguishment by fire service personnel Incident command	Salvage & overhaul Investigate	Search
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Actions Taken**Air Truck | Personnel**

Lingle, Tyler C	Provide apparatus
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Actions Taken**Battalion Chief 12 | Personnel**

RITCHIE, DOUGLAS	Notify other agencies.
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Actions Taken**Battalion Chief 2 | Personnel**

MARTIN, PETER	Incident command
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Narratives

Department NFIRS Narrative

On 09/15/2023 at 1250 hours, crews from the Columbia Fire Department were dispatched to 5 South Ninth Street for report of a commercial structure fire. A fire event was found in a second floor room and the stairwell leading up to the third floor. A second alarm was requested for additional resources. In addition to fire damage in the room of origin and adjacent stairwell area, products of combustion caused significant damage to several third floor office spaces before extinguishment. All occupants were confirmed to have self-evacuated.

For additional information, refer to unit narratives and the enclosed Fire Investigative Report.

Walt Goodman
Assistant Fire Marshal, MR2

Last update on 10/18/2023 at 18:35:40 by WALTER R GOODMAN

Narratives

Engine 1

On 9/15/2023, Engine One was originally dispatched to the report of a commercial structure fire located at 5-225 S. 9th Street, Ragtag Theater. Once on scene, Engine One positioned in the west side of 9th st and charged a 1 3/4 crossly for an offensive fire attack to the second floor of the target address.

Myself and FF Whitehouse immediately packed up and assisted Ladder One's crew with advancing the hose line into the fire room to the second floor of the affected building. We encountered high heat and intense fire conditions at the top of the stair that kept us from advancing much further until most of the fire had been placed under control in the second floor break room. Once the second floor break room had been mostly contained, myself and FF Whitehouse moved the primary hose line up to the third floor to search for extension. At this point we met up with other crews and had to exit to fill our bottles.

After we had changed out bottles, we were reassigned to overhaul operations before being sent to to rehab. Once rehab was completed, and the fire was determined to under control, Engine One's crew was assigned to assist the fire marshals on scene with completing their investigation.

I was assigned to take over command. Once all fire fighting activities were completed I released all other fire units from the scene with the exception of Marshal 2 and Engine One. Marshal 2 completed his investigation and once he stated the scene was no longer needed for his report I contacted BCJC and informed them that I would be terminating command and all Columbia Fire units were clear of the scene and in service.

SU Captain Joel Pauley

Last update on 09/20/2023 at 21:22:01 by JOEL PAULEY

Narratives

Safety 1

Safety 1 responded with a full box assignment to 5 S. Ninth St. for the report of a commercial structure fire. Upon arrival I staged my vehicle at the Southeast corner of Ninth and Broadway blocking the sidewalk to keep pedestrians from crossing the street. Broadway and Ninth were both backed up heavily with traffic, so I began directing them and assisting other CFD members to clear the road for incoming Fire apparatus.

Once the streets had been blocked and the traffic was cleared, I donned my structural firefighting ppe and made a 360 of the occupancy. I found that all the electric meters were located inside the structure and the gas meters were all on the Charlie side behind a locked gate. I reported my findings back to command and then monitored the scene for Safe operations.

Once the incident was brought under control, I helped the crews escort the building occupants in to obtain any belongings. Once everyone was out the AFM Goodman advised we could leave, I cleared the scene.

I placed Safety 1 back in service and returned to Quarters.

Joey Simmons

Last update on 09/26/2023 at 20:05:35 by JOSEPH SIMMONS

Narratives

Ladder 1

L1 responded on the initial alarm to a reported structure fire at 5 S. Ninth St.

Upon arrival I, Craig Plassmeyer, advised of a large 2 story building with smoke showing. I established Ninth Street Command and began investigation.

There were numerous bystanders stating that there was heavy smoke and fire in a room on the second floor of the target address. One of the bystanders pointed to the exact location of the fire. I observed two open doors to the Bravo (Ninth Street) side of the building. I attempted to shut the door to the fire floor in an attempt to control flow path, but the bottom of the door was stuck on the sidewalk. I looked up the stairs to the second floor and could see heavy black smoke coming from a room with an open door. I instructed E1 to lay line for fire attack.

As I was making my way up the stairs to investigate and locate the fire, the room flashed over with fire engulfing the whole room. With the door to the fire room open, the smoke that had filled the hallway and stairwell to the third floor also flashed with heavy fire. FF Lane and I advanced an 1 3/4 line up the Ninth Street stairwell and began fire attack. We knocked down fire in both the second and third floor stairwells. We advanced the line into the fire apartment and began to extinguish the rest of the fire. Once the majority of the fire was knocked down in the fire apartment, I advised command that we could use more companies on the second and third floors to conduct a primary search and also begin ventilation operations. I conducted a quick primary search of the fire room with nothing found.

L1 personnel exited to fill air bottles.

L1 was then reassigned to continue ventilation and overhaul operations through the rest of the incident. Ventilation efforts for adjacent business and rental units were conducted to remove CO and light smoke.

Once smoke and CO were clear, L1 assisted in breaking down water supplies to E1.

Command then returned L1 to service.

Last update on 09/16/2023 at 00:36:55 by CRAIG PLASSMEYER

Narratives

Squad 3

S3 responded and positioned apparatus on S. Ninth, south of E1.

We we arrived on scene, command gave us an assignment to assist E1 with hose for fire attack. We assisted E1, when E1 had to exit for air we assumed E1's assignment. We found additional fire above the fire floor, suspected it had moved into the floor above. I contacted command and advised what we suspected. Command gave orders for additional crews to proceed to the floor above. Q5 and E2 would advise there was no fire extension to the floor above. We continued to fight fire above our heads. As ventilation and visibility improved we were able to identify that here was a void space above the fire room where the fire had extended into. Our low air started to activate. I advised command and we switched places with L1 and I gave report to Cpt. Plassmeyer as we exited of fire location and conditions. We exited the structure, swapped bottles, and advised command ready for assignment. Command gave assignment of establishing RIC 1. I advised command that we were currently 2-person crew but would initiate RIC 1. Command advised me that FF Lingle was responding with the Air Truck and would join our crew upon his arrival. We retrieved tools and established location on the Bravo Side of the Structure. When FF Lingle arrived and joined our crew, I advised command that we were at a 3-person crew. We assessed the building for egress and building conditions and then staged for the remainder of the event. As the event prolonged, we were advised to breakdown RIC 1 and initiate air bottle refill station. We filled all bottles on scene and were later returned to service by command.

I returned S3 to service. *** End of Report ***

T.J. O'Brien

Last update on 09/27/2023 at 12:34:23 by TIMOTHY O'BRIEN

Narratives

Quint 3

Q3 responded on the initial alarm and was asked to do a primary search on the third floor on arrival. As we arrived, first deployed a ground ladder to the second floor on the alpha side.

We proceeded to the third floor and searched the area. We found heavy smoke conditions but no fire. Once the floor was cleared, we began to help with ventilation of the structure.

We continued ventilation efforts as well as air monitoring throughout the event to allow other people access to the building. Once the situation was under control, we filled our air packs and cleared the scene in service.

Shawn McCollom

Last update on 09/15/2023 at 18:14:11 by SHAWN MCCOLLOM

Narratives

Battalion Chief 2

On September 15, 2023, at approximately 1250 hours, I responded to a box alarm assignment at 5 S. Ninth Street.

Upon my arrival, the incident commander provided a scene size-up and his actions. I advised him I would assume Ninth Street Command and advised BCJC. I then requested BCJC to strike a second alarm for this incident. My next assignments to arriving crews were: establishing a water supply, pulling a second fire attack line, and a primary search of the building. I told BCJC I was shutting Broadway from 9th Street to 8th Street, and 9th Street from Broadway to Cherry St. I informed BCJC to advise the Columbia Police Department to expedite to the scene to assist with crowd control and shutdown of streets.

The next round of assignments was to second alarm crews and other CFD personnel on the scene. These assignments were setting up for a defensive aerial attack and an additional water supply, a primary search of the Delta exposures, checking roof conditions and fire extension through void spaces, and setting up a rehab station for crews. I assigned BC12 to cover radio traffic on the main channel and to deal with individuals coming to the command vehicle. As the incident was ongoing, I rotated crews to rehab and then back to operations.

Once the incident was under control, a few crews were ordered to conduct overhaul and ventilation operations and continue monitoring the air atmosphere to ensure safe operations for the fire marshals' investigation. Other crews were ordered to assist with preparing the apparatus back to road-ready condition and eventually released those crews back to service.

Upon the ongoing fire investigation, the crews of E1 and L1 were ordered to assist the fire marshalls and stay on the scene. All other crews were placed back in service. I advised BCJC that I was transferring command to L1, and I cleared the scene and placed myself back in service.

There were no injuries or deaths involving this incident. However, one firefighter was checked for heat exhaustion in rehab and released back to operations upon a medical evaluation.

Pete Martin, BC2

Last update on 09/27/2023 at 09:52:27 by PETER MARTIN

Narratives

Battalion Chief 12

Battalion Chief 12 arrived on scene and staged my vehicle out of the way on Broadway. I entered the Command vehicle and tracked units on scene. I handed all BCJC traffic on purple.

Near the conclusion of the incident, Command advised that I could return to service.

Last update on 09/20/2023 at 16:22:46 by DOUGLAS RITCHIE

Narratives

Engine 2

Engine 2 responded as part of a first alarm assignment for a reported commercial structure fire at 5 S. Ninth Street.

Engine 2 arrived on the scene, and I (Capt. Greg Kome) checked in with Command. Engine 2 was initially assigned to pull a back-up line off Engine 1. We pulled their second crosslay off and charged it at the door. Engine 2's crew assisted with several fire ground tasks including establishing a water supply to Engine 1, placing ground ladders to the second floor, and pulling hose to the second floor. We also checked the third floor for hot spots and pulled some ceiling with nothing found. Engine 2's crew exited to replace air bottles.

Once our air bottles were replaced, we were assigned to use a CGM and check CO levels in the Teller's Restaurant. Chief 4 also requested that we check above ceiling tiles in the kitchen area for hot spots. We found high CO levels in the business and utilized an attic ladder to check above the ceiling where we found some charring located between the fire room and the void above the kitchen ceiling. However, there was no elevated heat levels or active smoke.

We then used fans to ventilate the CO and smoke from Teller's. Finally, Safety 1 coordinated with Water and Light to get the hood system power restored and we utilized that to eject some of the smoke and gases until the levels were under 10 PPM. I then reported that to Command so the Health Department rep could look at the kitchen. I also retrieved some personal items (purse/phone/keys) for a woman who worked in Suite 203. I entered her name in the report.

Engine 2's crew assisted with various tasks outside until returned to service by command. Engine 2's crew took no further actions.

I returned Engine 2 to service.

Written by Capt. Greg Kome

Last update on 09/15/2023 at 20:19:32 by GREGORY KOME

Narratives

Ladder 2

L2 responded emergency to the reported CSF at 5 S. Ninth St. as part of the original full box assignment. Upon our arrival we approached from the south heading north on 9th St. We were redirected to place L2 on Broadway St. and repositioned L2. We were then assigned ventilation on the "B" side, we assisted with placing the PPV at the entrance to the stairs and then setting an additional fan on the landing between the 2nd and 3rd floors. In the interim we assisted with humping hose up the stairwells to the fire attack crews on floors 2 and 3.

We assisted with rehabbing airpacks and changing bottles for the crews that were being shuffled in/out of the fire floors. We were later asked to get a attic ladder to the crew on the 3rd floor, it was retrieved from RL1 and taken to the crew.

Command contacted us at some point and requested we rehab and place L2 back in service as there were additional box alarms being dispatched, we returned to L2 and picked up 400' of LDH and began reloading assisted by Q7.

Upon rehabbing our apparatus I placed L2 back in service and cleared the scene.

Capt. J. Kandlik

Last update on 09/15/2023 at 21:01:18 by JAMES KANDLIK

Narratives

Quint 9

Quint 9 (Q9) arrived on scene and switched to channel Brown. Q9 was assigned to make Ladder 2 ready for aerial operations. Q9 crew pulled dual supply lines and connected to a hydrant. Eng. M. Bunton set up the aerial for operation.

I, (Captain Rich Harris) and FF C. Perry laddered the roof using the aerial. Q9 crew could not access the fire from the roof. Q9 crew advised Command and exited the roof. Q9 crew was assigned overhaul on the second and third floor. Entering the structure E1 crew advised that overhaul was complete on the second floor. Q9 crew went to the third floor and Q7 crew advised that overhaul was complete on the third floor.

Q9 crew reported to rehab. Command advised that Q9 could return to service.

I returned Q9 to service.

Last update on 09/15/2023 at 20:48:46 by RICHARD E HARRIS

Narratives

Quint 7

Q7 was dispatched as part of a second alarm. Upon arrival, Q7 staged at 9th and Cherry for possible alternate building access and possible water supply.

Command assigned Q7 to complete Primary Search of 818 Broadway, 1st and 2nd levels. Access was gained through the Alpha door, as it was unlocked, however only permitted access to Level 1 and the sub-level basement. All areas were clear. A property rep was a bystander and provided access to Level 2, as well as the Charlie side apartment for this building. Apt B door was forced open due to the keys provided not unlocking the door. The space above the drop ceiling was searched for extension. All areas were searched and determined to be All Clear, which was relayed to Command.

Q7 was assigned to place a ground ladder on the Alpha side/Bravo corner. A ground ladder was obtained from L2 and placed accordingly.

Q7 was assigned to relieve Q5 on the Bravo side and continue with the operation of searching for extension. Q7 entered Bravo side and went to the second and third floor. Walls and ceilings were opened up to determine any extension, however none was found in the areas. Command advised Q7 to assist with ventilation, which was accomplished by opening multiple windows on the Alpha and Bravo sides.

Q7 was assigned to rehab and shortly thereafter reassigned to assist E1 and L2 with restoring their trucks with hose.

Q7 apparatus and equipment was restored and Command released Q7 to service.

Last update on 09/15/2023 at 18:05:03 by BRIAN STRONG

Narratives

Quint 5

On Sept. 15, 2023, at 1254, Quint 5 (Q5), as part of a second alarm box, was dispatched to 5 S. Ninth St, suite 202 for a commercial structure fire. While responding, BCJC advised of a commercial structure fire. I was in my POV and responded from the training academy. Eng. Moore and FF Hendren responded in Q5 from Station 5. I met them at the scene.

Once we met up, command assigned us to assist the Ladder 1 (L1) engineer on the roof. I met with him and he stated he did not need assistance on the roof; he was done. Command then assigned us to relieve Engine 1's (E1) crew on the hose line. We were assigned to bring another hoseline to the third floor and search for extension.

We made the third floor. We found heavy smoke, but no fire. We opened a few windows to start ventilating the third floor. We then went to the second floor to assist with overhaul. L1's crew needed another ladder to overhaul the loft area; we retrieved a roof ladder. We then came out of the building to refill our air cylinders.

After refilling, command assigned us to relieve Squad 3's (S3) crew as RIC 1. We stood by as RIC 1 until command assigned us to further assist with ventilating the third floor. We went back up and opened the window on the third floor. We then restarted the ventilation fan in the stairwell. We came back down and went to rehab.

After approximately 10 minutes in rehab, command stated we could return to service.

I returned Q5 to service and we cleared the scene.

Capt. Ed Kehrer

Last update on 09/15/2023 at 17:30:46 by EDWARD KEHRER

Narratives

Air Truck

On September 15, 2023, at 13:14 hours the air truck was dispatched as part of a second alarm to 5 S ninth St #202.

I, Ty Lingle, arrived with air truck and was assigned to stage air operations. I was assigned to RIC1 as the firefighter on Squad 3. After RIC1 was assigned to break down, I was reassigned to air operations where I filled air bottles of all CFD personal with low bottles.

After filling bottles, I was advised by command to return to break down air operations. I cleared the scene and returned to service.

Last update on 09/15/2023 at 20:40:39 by Tyler C. Lingle

Narratives

Marshal 4

On 09/15/2023 at 12:47 hours, the Columbia Fire Department was dispatched to a commercial structure fire at 5 S Ninth St.

I, Steve Riggs, Marshal 4 (M4), responded when the incident was initially dispatched. Upon arrival I was advised to block traffic in the westbound lane on Broadway Ave. between Tenth St. and Ninth St. by Assistant Chief Jenkins.

While fire crews were extinguishing the fire, I began photographing the exterior of the structure.

Once the fire was extinguished and the structure was safe to enter Marshal 2 and I donned our SCBA's, due to the high level of Carbon Monoxide in the structure. I entered the structure through the east door which lead to a stairway to the second and third floors.

On the second floor I observed a room with significant fire damage. There was only one room on the second floor. I photographed the room then proceeded up the stairs to the third floor. I observed significant fire and smoke damage to the walls and ceiling in the stairwell leading to the third floor. I observed moderate smoke and water damage to the floor, walls, and ceiling throughout the third floor. I photographed the area.

The area of origin was determined to be in the room on the second floor in front of the north interior wall, were a V-Pattern and the most significant fire damage was observed. Along the north interior wall I observed a surge protector plugged into an extension cord which was plugged into a receptacle on the west interior wall. The refrigerator, microwave, and toaster were located along the north interior wall and were plugged into the surge protector. The surge protector sustained significant fire damage. The insulation on the electrical cord leading to the toaster was completely burned away and had evidence of arcing. The insulation on the electrical cord leading to the microwave was completely burned away with no evidence of arcing. The insulation on the electrical cord leading to the refrigerator was only partially burned away.

I observed the door to the microwave was open. I also observed a couch in front of the microwave. The couch sustained the most significant fire damage to the left side, which was closest to the microwave.

In conclusion, based on the evidence found at the scene, this fire is classified as accidental. The fire started in the room on the second floor along the north interior wall. The cause of the fire is the possibility of arcing wires or something catching fire in the microwave.

Last update on 10/03/2023 at 08:13:23 by STEVEN RIGGS

Narratives

Assistant Fire Chief - Chief 3

I (Assistant Fire Chief Jerry Jenkins - Chief 3) arrived on the scene.

When I first arrived a positioned my staff car to block west bound traffic on Broadway, but tried to get the current traffic to go north on Ninth Street.

I then checked in at the command post. I had the Incident Commander (Battalion Chief Peter Martin - BC2) strike a 2nd alarm.

I then repositioned my staff car to Ninth Street. I put on my personal protective gear.

I reported back to the command post. I then walked around the B-Side and A-side of the building to get a better layout of the incident.

Quint 3 arrived on the scene and command requested they position on Broadway (A-side). Where they positioned (directly in front of building in the eastbound lane) I was concerned they were in the collapse zone. I had them re position further to the west and park in the westbound lane.

I continued to walk around the scene to monitor the operations.

I requested Command assign someone to set up ground ladders to the 2nd floor on Side A and B.

Crews were checking the adjacent buildings for smoke and extension. I propped the door open with a wooden wedge.

I assisted Quint 9's crew establish water supply to Ladder 2.

After the fire was out myself and Chief Heidenreich I entered Tellers to see if I could locate the main power supply. Water was coming through the ceiling and light fixtures. I located the main power panel and shut of the main power to Tellers.

I met with Water & Light and they were trying to locate the meter that supplied Tellers. After a few minutes they located the meter and disconnected it.

Battalion Chief Lester Shewmake (BC3) arrived on the scene and checked in. I had him to go to Station 1 and assist Division Chief John Metz (DC6) with running the rest of the city.

Fire Chief Clayton Farr Jr. called me by phone and requested a situational report on the incident.

Boone County Fire District Fire Chief Scott Olsen called me by phone to see what assistance we needed. I advised him to contact Chief Metz at Station 1.

I had the UMC EMS crew set up a REHAB area at the corner of Ninth Street and Broadway on the North side. Command had crews go to REHAB to have vitals checked. I went to REHAB myself to have my vitals check.

After about 15 minutes, I returned to the command post to see what needs Chief Martin needed. I remained at the command post to assist as needed.

Later in the incident Command started releasing crews I assisted Columbia Police in opening up Broadway.

I then cleared the scene in service.

Last update on 10/09/2023 at 10:48:22 by JERRY JENKINS

Narratives

Marshal 2

FIRE INVESTIGATION REPORT

CFD Incident # 2311415

5 S. Ninth St.

15 September, 2023 @ 1247 Hours

Owner Franzen Properties, LLC

Prepared by Walt Goodman

SUMMARY

On 09/15/2023 at 1247 hours, crews from the Columbia Fire Department were dispatched to 5 South Ninth Street for report of a commercial structure fire. A fire event was found in a second floor room and the stairwell leading up to the third floor. A second alarm was requested for additional resources. In addition to fire damage in the room of origin and adjacent stairwell area, products of combustion caused significant damage to several third floor office spaces before extinguishment. All occupants were confirmed to have self-evacuated.

This downtown location is listed as having been originally built in 1863 according to the Boone County Historical Society, and is described as the oldest-known commercial building in the Downtown Columbia Historic District. The Ragtag Film

Society and two other businesses had offices at the target address, and Teller's Gallery and Bar addressed at 820 E Broadway was located below and to the north.

NOTIFICATION

I (Walt Goodman), while in my vehicle serving as duty marshal, heard the initial commercial structure fire dispatch. I responded to the scene and used my vehicle to assist with closure and access control of the Ninth Street and Cherry Street intersection for responding apparatus until the arrival of law enforcement. Dense smoke was visible from my vantage point upon my arrival. I remained on the scene anticipating the need for a fire origin and cause investigation.

WEATHER

At the time of this incident winds were out of the North at 0.45 miles per hour without any gusts. The temperature was 79.5 degrees Fahrenheit. Humidity was 33% without precipitation, and conditions were clear overhead.

ON-SCENE INVESTIGATION

I began my investigation by visually surveying the area and documenting damage via photographs.

EXTERIOR OF STRUCTURE

This building is a multi-story type III ordinary construction mixed-use occupancy. Located in the center hub of downtown, it is recognized as having notable historic, cultural, and commercial significance to the community.

EAST (ALPHA) SIDE

- All structural and ornamental fixtures of the east (Alpha) side of the structure appeared to be intact without obvious damage.
- The east side (Alpha) sidewalk in front of the structure facing Ninth Street was noted to have a visible grade upward leading to the Broadway intersection.
- The recently painted masonry wall facing Ninth Street had nine tie rods visible with ornamental stars.
- A masonry parapet wall with newly painted flashing faced Ninth Street at the top of side Alpha.
- The exterior of the east (Alpha) side of the structure had a glass door entrance to stairs for the target address, and another glass door staff entrance for the Teller's restaurant occupancy to the north. The glass door entrance to the target address was noted to get "stuck" in the open position on the graded concrete sidewalk unless forcibly dragged toward a closed position. It was noted to be wedged open during and following evacuation of occupants.
- Two electrical service smart meters and panels with painted metal conduit were located between the target address door and the Teller's staff entrance door. After the beginning of fire suppression operations, the southernmost meter was pulled by Columbia Water and Light.
- Five sets of double windows on the top floor and another two larger sets of double windows nearest the northeast (Alpha Delta) corner of the structure were visible. One uniquely located individual window was visible in the vicinity of the second floor above and north of the front glass door street entrance. During an initial investigation, this window was intact. It was subsequently broken out during the process of ventilation and overhaul.
- The Teller's restaurant occupancy had two large picture windows at ground level nearest the northeast (Alpha Delta) corner.

SOUTH (BRAVO) SIDE

- The south (Bravo) side of the structure was bordered with fire wall separation near the southeast (Alpha Bravo)

corner to a one-story mercantile occupancy of Type III-Ordinary construction named Bluestem Missouri Crafts addressed at 13 S. Ninth Street. This building increased to a two-story occupancy as it approached Alley A to the south. No visible fire damage was noticeable to the exterior of the Bluestem structure.

- The southwest (Bravo Charlie) half of the south side comprised a courtyard area with a thin corridor leading toward Alley A. A metal padlocked entrance gate provided physical security to this corridor and courtyard area. It was noted to be secured at the time of the incident, and accessed by Columbia Water and Light crew members before being re-secured.
- Four third-floor windows were visible with missing glass in the western-most two of them, partially missing glass in another window, and the glass and window pane intact on the one nearest the southeast (Alpha Bravo) corner. The glass and window pane were missing in one second-floor window near the southwest (Bravo Charlie) corner. This damage occurred during the fire event. Three ground-level windows appeared intact.
- Discoloration was seen above the westernmost third floor window, and discoloration and degradation of exterior surface material was visible above the second floor window and in the area to the left of and between the nearest third floor window above it.
- A section of metal chimney vent piping was attached to the Bravo side exterior near the roof flashing, with additional metal piping absent below it.
- Two metal conduit piping assemblies were visible in the area between the two westernmost third floor windows from the roof downward to ground level
- A number of electric service lines were visible attached to the south (Bravo) side. Several of them had insulation material deformity or were denuded of insulation material in the area outside of the second floor window and third floor westernmost windows, nearest the windows.

WEST (CHARLIE) SIDE

- The west (Charlie) side of the structure was bordered with firewall separation from the Neate Building addressed at 818 East Broadway. This multi-story type III ordinary construction mixed-use occupancy was stated to have been built in 1893 with a metal plaque affixed to its north side masonry.
- This exterior side was not visible as the adjacent structure was of greater height than the target address.

NORTH (DELTA) SIDE

- The north (Delta) side of the structure had a set of three windows nearest the northeast (Alpha Delta) corner, and another set of four windows closer to the northwest (Charlie Delta) corner on the upstairs floor level.
- The ground floor of the north side had two large picture windows closer to the northeast (Alpha Delta) corner and an entranceway with glass doors nearest the northwest (Charlie Delta) corner. The Teller's occupancy is addressed at 820 East Broadway with its primary entrance facing north on this side.

INTERIOR OF STRUCTURE

After an initial survey of the exterior of the building by Assistant Fire Marshal Riggs and myself, Incident Command determined that the fire had been extinguished enough to allow entry for fire investigative personnel. There was, however, a large degree of carbon monoxide remaining in the structure despite initial ventilation attempts. In order to allow for investigation prior to additional overhaul and potential alteration of the fire scene, the decision was made to conduct an initial fire investigation in full fire suppression personal protection equipment with self-contained breathing apparatus. Assistant Fire Marshal Steve Riggs accompanied me during this initial investigation as we made entry in full structural firefighting PPE with SCBA. After initial survey and photographs were made, we exited the structure and rehabbed air bottles. Assistant Fire Marshal Riggs and I returned to take additional photos and resume our investigation without full structural PPE once air monitoring deemed it appropriate.

ENTRYWAY STAIRS

- The metal and glass front door was wedged in the open position upon entry.
- One twenty foot flight of stairs led straight up to a landing with a second floor room that was referred to by occupants as the "Bullpen."
- The stairwell corridor remained essentially intact and undamaged with the exception of black ash on stairs and smoke staining that increased with the elevation of the stairs.
- One wooden door with glass was noted to be in the open position at the top of the stairs at the entry to the stairwell landing.
- One wooden door with glass to the "Bullpen" room was noted to be in the open position against the wall and partially covered by the stairwell wooden door, and was noted to have black discoloration and glass broken.
- The "Bullpen" room was noted in passing to have obvious and significant fire damage visible from the doorway landing.
- The ceiling and walls of the second floor landing had significant discoloration and degradation of surface materials.
- At the second floor landing a ninety-degree turn upward to the right continued with one straight ten foot flight of stairs upward.
- A visible line of demarcation could be seen on both walls leading upward in the stairwell to the third floor corresponding to a layer of smoke and heat ascending upward to the third floor.

THIRD FLOOR CORRIDOR

- The third floor corridor was noted to have one wooden door at the top of the stairs in the fully open position.

- A line of demarcation corresponding to a smoke layer was visible down the hallway walls of the corridor. The walls and ceiling were discolored and darkened above this line.
- Depositing of ash and particulate products of combustion were visibly seen on all flat surfaces of the corridor.
- The words and shape outline of a discolored and partially deformed “No Smoking” sign was visible on the hallway above the smoke line of demarcation, outside Room 201 indicating heat insult in addition to smoke staining in the corridor space. Another similar “No Smoking” sign was visible farther down the corridor near Room 207, and it remained intact, with the exception of smoke staining on it and the area around it.
- An approximately four foot by three foot area in the ceiling had been opened up by fire crews to check for extension. An attic later was placed against the wall in this location. Dark discoloration of structural elements was visible through the opening, but no active fire remained.

ROOM 201

- This suite was the first on the right moving down the corridor, and housed an office for Lori Thweatt, Massage Therapist.
- This suite remained for the most part intact, as it was vacant at the time of the incident and the door was closed.
- Fire crews broke the glass from the door during search operations, opened the door, and had propped one exterior window open to assist with ventilation.
- Smoke staining was noted in a few places on the wall as well some black ash staining and broken glass from the door on the light colored carpet of the space.

ROOM 202

- This room was the next suite on the right moving down the corridor, and housed an office for Grace Piontek, Operations Director for the Ragtag Film Society and Travis Bird, Technical Director, who was not present at the time of the incident.
- This room had smoke staining on the ceiling and all vertical surfaces and depositing of products of combustion gathered on all horizontal surfaces.
- One window was propped in an open position to assist with ventilation.

ROOM 203

- This room was the next room on the right moving down the corridor after Room 203, and housed an office for Emma Leaf Missouri Cannabis Manufacturing, which was temporarily subleasing the space from the Ragtag Film Society.
- Tammy Barrett and Paul Schenck maintained an office in this suite and were present at the time of the fire incident.
- This room had smoke staining on the ceiling and all vertical surfaces and depositing of products of combustion gathered on all horizontal surfaces.

ROOM 204

- This room was the next room on the right moving down the corridor and served as a conference room for the Ragtag Film Society.
- It had a large number of packed DVD format films in shelving on one of its walls, and shelving with a number of books against the wall next to the doorway. A large conference table was situated in the center of the room, surrounded by chairs.
- Both windows in the space were left in the open position by fire crews for ventilation.
- This room had smoke staining on the ceiling and all vertical surfaces and depositing of products of combustion gathered on all horizontal surfaces.

ROOM 205/206

- The next door on the right along the corridor was labelled 205/206. This combined suite had a workspace for Ragtag Film Society staff with various work stations and furniture items for seating. It comprised the corner area of the northeast (Charlie Delta) quadrant of the occupancy.
- A number of Ragtag Film Society staff members were in this combined suite at the time of the fire event.
- Windows were propped and left in the open position by fire crews to aid in ventilation.
- This combined suite had smoke staining on the ceiling and all vertical surfaces and depositing of products of combustion gathered on all horizontal surfaces.

ROOM 207

- The next room in a counter-clockwise direction was Room 207, which was the office of Arin Liberman, the Executive Director of the Ragtag Film Society. She was present in her office at the time of the fire incident.
- Windows were propped and left in the open position by fire crews to aid in ventilation.
- This room had smoke staining on the ceiling and all vertical surfaces and depositing of products of combustion gathered on all horizontal surfaces.

UTILITY ROOM

- The next room in a counter-clockwise direction was a mechanical room labelled “Utility Room” on the glass door.
- Inside this room there were eight electrical service meters that were pulled after the fire event.
- One HVAC air handler was present and appeared to be intact. One aluminum extension ladder was partially extended and placed for what appeared to be an attic access scuttle that was open.
- Various other storage and utility items were present.
- Discoloration and smoke staining were present on the ceiling and the walls in the areas closest to the ceiling.

Additional black discoloration was noted near the top and side of the door.

RESTROOM #1

- The next room in a counter-clockwise direction was a restroom labelled "RESTROOM" on the glass door.
- This room had smoke staining on the ceiling and all vertical surfaces and deposition of products of combustion gathered on all horizontal surfaces.

RESTROOM #2

- The next room in a counter-clockwise direction was a restroom labelled "RESTROOM" on the glass door.
- This room had smoke staining on the ceiling and all vertical surfaces and deposition of products of combustion gathered on all horizontal surfaces. This room had significantly darker discoloration and damage from smoke and heat than the restroom farther down the hall.
- An approximately three foot square hole was made in the ceiling of this room to check for fire extension, and a similar area on the wall near the ceiling below it had surface material removed.

THE SECOND FLOOR "BULLPEN" ROOM- ORIGIN OF THE FIRE EVENT

- Upon entry into this second-floor room, significant widespread damage indicated a post-flashover environment.
- A lightweight wooden outward-swinging door with glass broken out of it was noted in the open position. Burn pattern markings on the upper half of the door and closest to the door hinges indicated significant high heat and flame passing through the upper part of the doorway.
- A metal inward-swinging door was visible in the open position from the same entryway. Diffuse discoloration was noted from top to bottom on the door corresponding to heat and flame insult.
- A wooden loft area was noted to be in the space spanning the length of the west half of the room. A high ceiling was visible on the right side of the room. Partial metal remains of conduit, light ballasts and low-ceiling level frame assemblies were in various states of collapse.
- One window was broken underneath the loft area, and an air conditioning unit was installed in the window assembly lower half.
- One window was visible with broken glass above the high ceiling area, and another double-window was visible with broken glass above the loft area on the west side of the room.
- A debris field was visible spanning the floor along the west wall of the room, with light ballast housings, black ash, ceiling materials, and overturned and broken furniture in various states of consumption by fire. The wall along this side showed discoloration, calcification, and a few areas of clean burn suggesting a flow path along the wall toward the exterior window underneath the loft.
- One metal vent pipe was visible leaning from an access scuttle on the loft spanning above the loft down to the floor of the room.
- The east side of the room had a debris field with an overturned table, and a significant collection of light combustibles, suggesting that many of them were in a protected area from the fire.
- A section of HVAC ductwork was visible suspended below the loft area near the northwest corner of the room, and two additional sections were detached, discolored, and deformed on the floor in the debris field.
- The northwest corner of the room had a refrigerator. Both doors were partially opened and deformed. The refrigerator was also discolored with darkest discoloration in the lower area nearest the floor on the side closer to the sofa couch and microwave. Contents inside of the refrigerator were discolored and for the most part consumed by fire.
- One electric receptacle was noted on the wall to left of the refrigerator near the floor. One cord was plugged into the right side, and the left side showed deformity and discoloration from heat insult suggesting that it had no protected area created by a power cord plugged in.
- Between the refrigerator and the wall on the west side, the white power cord plugged into the receptacle had partially fused into a deformed plastic container with the partially deformed remnants of a Swiffer wet jet sponge.
- In the northeast quadrant of the room, a small corridor led to another room with a closed door. In the corridor on the right, a closet cove with shelving had a number of discolored items with varied levels of fire damage. Among these was a box of what appeared to be glass champaign bottles without lids.
- On the Left side, a discolored chest of draws was located in front of the countertop area the outer shell of what appeared to be a computer device was located on top. The countertop area had a number of light combustible paper items with varied degrees of fire consumption. The quantity of remaining fire load items on the countertop suggests that a fire flow path moved away from these materials.
- An electrical panel on the left side showed eight out of nine electrical breakers had tripped. The door was in a closed position with the exterior door discolored black. On the inside, the control panel and the interior side of the door were also discolored black. Although difficult to confirm, it appeared that the label for the switch that had not tripped was for "Lites and outlets in East Room" [sic]. As this appeared breaker appeared to provide power for the room on the other side of the east door, it appears that all of the breakers associated with the "Bullpen" room tripped during the fire event.
- The back wall area behind the refrigerator, microwave and countertop showed mass loss of wall material revealing a void space behind the wall with visible metal ductwork with an auburn oxidized color. An unobstructed view was present in the void space below into the Teller's restaurant and audible voices of restoration contractors working below were noted without firewall separation. Behind the refrigerator, wall material was consumed to a discolored

black irregular edge. In the area behind the microwave, wall material was broken with a clean unburned edge, suggesting mechanical damage by fire personnel during fire suppression and initial overhaul.

- Below the countertop surface and location of a microwave, mass loss in a vertical surface behind a sofa couch revealed what appeared to be HVAC duct work with the countertop having been framed around it. Although discoloration and deformity of the metal suggest heat insult, a small plastic cup labelled "Little King-America's Greatest Hero" showed only partial deformity near the top, and suggested that the lower area inside of the countertop space was a protected area. The countertop frame showed a pattern with deep depth of char suggesting sustained high heat and flame. This metal duct work was later confirmed to terminate in an open orifice in the utility void space between Teller's restaurant below and the "Bullpen" room above it. No visible evidence of fire impingement was noted on the inside of this metal ductwork.
- Metal springs from a sofa couch located in front of the countertop and below a microwave were visible where mass loss had occurred on the left side of a sofa couch. This destruction was most pronounced in the area below and to the left of the microwave located above it, and corresponding to the "V pattern" lines of demarcation in the material below the microwave. This suggests that the left side of the couch or the floor next to the couch were possible points of ignition and fire growth.
- Between the refrigerator and the countertop area, a small shelving unit was discolored but appeared structurally intact. A discolored basket with metal framing was situated on the top shelf with remnants inside that were burned and difficult to identify. Items on the shelf below were similarly damaged by fire and difficult to identify, but appeared to be cleaning products, one including a container of Comet.
- The left corner area of the countertop had mass loss of surface material to the left of and partially underneath a microwave oven noted to have the door in the wide open position.
- On the left edge of the countertop area, the metal shell of a toaster was discolored and found to be plugged into the deformed remnants of a relocatable power tap, which was found to be to the left of the countertop on the shelving unit. Toaster wires were denuded of insulation material and the wire connection to the device separated upon gentle contact.
- The relocatable power tap was severely discolored and deformed. It was plugged into a white extension cord which appeared to run behind the refrigerator and plug into a receptacle on the west side wall near the floor to the left of the refrigerator. This power tap, although severely deformed also appeared to have three items including a microwave oven, a toaster, and the refrigerator plugged into it. All three assemblies of copper wire were denuded with charring and deformity in their connection to the relocatable power tap.
- When the power tap connection was unplugged from the extension cord, clear undamaged metal prongs were visible showing that they were protected from thermal insult.
- The copper wires in the power connection to the microwave oven were denuded of insulation and appeared to have separated near their point of contact in the upper left corner on the rear surface of the appliance. Wires were denuded of insulation material in their connection to the microwave, and a light blue color suggested rapid oxidation of the wires in a couple of places.
- The microwave was of undetermined make and model, and was originally found upright with its door in the wide open position. All plastic and glass material was no longer present, and only metal components remained. Helmet camera video footage during fire suppression efforts first showed the microwave door to be ajar, but not fully opened upon first view post-flashover. Depositing of wall surface material was noted on the top of the microwave. The left side, right side, and rear of the microwave showed discoloration from thermal insult. The underside of the microwave had dark burn patterns that varied, suggesting that it was not a protected surface.
- The interior side of the wide open door of the microwave was discolored and appeared to have a differently colored burn pattern area to the bottom right hand corner of the door. The inside of the microwave showed what appeared to be a line of demarcation burn pattern from where the inside of the door was located back and upward to the rear of the that side. A similar change in color was visible on the right side wall near closest to the door. The rest of the inside of the microwave was discolored black. No other materials were present inside the microwave other than what appeared to be drywall material that may have settled into the compartment during fire suppression efforts. In comparison to common manufacture of similar types of microwave ovens, the metal door was secured closed by plastic hooks. At whatever point these plastic door hooks deteriorated, it is likely that the door opened.

"FALSE FALSE" ROOM NEXT TO THE "BULLPEN" ROOM

- This room was a workspace for the Ragtag Film Society that was nicknamed the "False False" room and was accessible via the northeast quadrant are of the "Bullpen" room.
- One window in the space had glass broken by fire crews in order to assist with ventilation.
- This room had smoke staining on the ceiling and all vertical surfaces and deposition of products of combustion gathered on all horizontal surfaces.

TELLER'S GALLERY AND BAR

- The Teller's Gallery and Bar occupancy is located below the fire incident target address, and had its front entrance at 820 E Broadway.
- Despite evidence of smoke insult, the Teller's dining room and kitchen area appeared undamaged with the exception of water damage in the ceiling area above a section of the kitchen.

- Above the Teller's kitchen area, through a ceiling access scuttle, fire damage from the "Bullpen" fire room upstairs was clearly visible with no barrier nor visible firewall, which would have allowed smoke to have entered the Teller's occupancy space.

818 E BROADWAY

- The property representatives were not available at the time that I attempted to make contact regarding the 818 E Broadway properties.

INTERVIEWS

GRACE PIONTEK:

Grace Piontek is the Operations Director for the Ragtag Film Society. I initially spoke with her outside the building on the afternoon of the incident, and later met with her on September 20th.

She identified herself as the initial party to have discovered the fire, when she thought she smelled smoke and heard something unusual downstairs. As she approached the "Bullpen" room she saw a large amount of smoke in the hallway. She stated that when she entered the room there was a large amount of smoke and flame in the area of the microwave.

When asked if it appeared that the microwave was open or closed, or if fire was below the microwave, around, near, or inside of the microwave, she could not specify. She stated that as soon as she saw that there were flames larger than she thought she could try to extinguish, she immediately left the room and focused on ensuring that everybody upstairs knew that there was a fire and needed to evacuate. Once everyone was confirmed to be outside of the building, she retrieved a portable fire extinguisher from the Tellers occupancy downstairs and returned to the stairwell entrance, but set the extinguisher down next to the entrance when she determined that the fire had progressed beyond her ability to extinguish it. She remained outside of the building as fire crews arrived.

FARAMOLA SHANEKAN:

Faramola Shanekan is the Director of Community Partnerships and Education for the Ragtag Film Society. I spoke with her via phone on September 20th.

She stated that she used the microwave, heating up a meal from home in tupperware at approximately 1230 hours, confirmed by a phone conversation that she had while the meal was cooking. She stated that she did not observe anything unusual about the microwave. She stated that she used the microwave in the same way that was her custom on every work day over the previous two years. She did not recall the specific make and model of the microwave, but stated that she had not observed any issues with its use or functionality at any time, nor did she observe any electrical issues in the "Bullpen" room at any time prior to the event.

After heating up her meal, she brought it upstairs to her workspace. She later heard Ms. Piontek yelling "Fire!" and escaped out of the building with the other occupants.

ARIN LIBERMAN: Arin Liberman is the Ragtag Film Society Executive Director.

I spoke briefly with Ms. Liberman on the afternoon of the incident, and again by phone on September 25th. She has been active seasonally with the organization since 2011, but assumed her executive leadership role approximately three years prior to this fire incident. She stated that she did not know the make and model of the microwave and other appliances in the Bullpen. She stated that she was unaware of any electrical or other appliance issues in the "Bullpen" at any time prior to the event.

On the day of the fire event, she stated that she arrived around 1200 hours. She later heard Ms. Piontek shouting "Fire!" and saw smoke in the far end of the hallway. She then evacuated the building with the other occupants.

LINDSEY ARRINGTON:

Lindsey Arrington is the Program Coordinator for the Ragtag Film Society. I spoke with Ms. Arrington via phone on September 20th. Ms. Arrington stated that she had been working with the organization for approximately four years. She stated that she had not observed electrical or appliance issues in the Bullpen at any time prior to the incident.

She stated that on the day of the fire event, she was at work upstairs and then heard Ms. Piontek yelling "Fire!" and "Get out!" and then exited the building with other staff. Ms. Arrington provided photos via text message of the "Bullpen" room from holiday staff event a few years prior to the event showing the location of the microwave in relation to the refrigerator and a sofa couch in front of it.

CHLOÉ TRAYNER:

Chloé Trayner is the Artistic Director of the Ragtag Film Society. I spoke with Ms. Trayner via phone on September

20th. She stated that she had not observed electrical or appliance issues in the Bullpen at any time prior to the incident. While at work upstairs, Ms. Trayner heard Ms. Piontek yelling "Fire!" and "Somebody call 911!" Ms. Trayner began her 911 call as she was exiting the building with other staff, and then reached a BC JC 911 operator once she was outside of the building.

OUMA AMADOU:

Ms. Amadou is a Programmer for the Ragtag Film Society. I spoke with Ms. Amadou via phone on September 20th. She stated that she had not observed electrical or appliance issues in the Bullpen at any time prior to the incident. Ms. Amadou was at work on the day of the fire event and evacuated with other staff when she heard Ms. Piontek yelling "Fire!" "Everybody get out!"

NATALIE HANTAK:

Natalie Hantak is the Sponsorship Coordinator for the Ragtag Film Society. I spoke with Ms. Hantak via phone on September 22nd. She stated that she had not observed electrical or appliance issues in the Bullpen at any time prior to the incident. Ms. Hantak was at work on the day of the fire event and evacuated with other staff when she heard Ms. Piontek yelling "Fire!" "Everybody get out!"

EMILY EDWARDS:

Emily Edwards is the Director of Marketing and communications for the Ragtag Film Society. I spoke briefly with Ms. Edwards by phone on September 22nd. She stated that she had not observed electrical or appliance issues in the Bullpen at any time prior to the incident. Ms. Edwards was at work on the day of the fire event and evacuated with other staff when she heard Ms. Piontek yelling "Fire!" "Everybody get out!"

PAUL SCHENCK:

Paul Schenck is the Vice President of Operations for Emma Leaf Missouri Cannabis Manufacturing, which had a temporary sublet office in Room 203 upstairs in the occupancy. I spoke with Mr. Schenck initially on the day of the fire event, and again via phone on September 22nd. Mr. Schenck stated that he and his colleague Tammy Barrett arrived for work sometime between 0800 and 0900 hours. He stated that they had opened up an office space that had been there for approximately two months. He stated that he had not been in the "Bullpen" room for a week or so prior to the incident, but had used the refrigerator in the past. He stated that he had not observed electrical or appliance issues in the Bullpen at any time prior to the incident.

He stated that on the day of the incident, he heard Ms. Piontek yell that there was a fire repeatedly. He stated that he grabbed a few items off of his desk and then evacuated. He stated that he believed that he was the last one out of the space and that he observed billowing black smoke coming from the "Bullpen" and flames within the smoke as he passed by the room on the way out of the building.

TAMMY BARRETT:

Tammy Barrett is the Compliance Manager for Emma Leaf Missouri Cannabis Manufacturing. I spoke with Ms. Barrett by phone on September 22nd. Ms. Barrett stated that she arrived at the office at 0800 hours on the day of the fire event. She stated that she used the microwave to heat up water for tea, as had been her custom every work day in the morning Monday thru Friday in the two months that she and her colleague had worked in that office. Ms. Barrett stated that she is a smoker, but she goes to the parking garage near Alley A behind the building on the occasions that she smokes.

She stated that while at work in her office she heard Ms. Piontek yelling, "Fire in the building! Get out!" and evacuated along with other occupants. She stated that as she passed the "Bullpen" fire room she saw a lot of smoke and heard "popping", which she thought sounded like Champaign bottles.

LORI THWEATT:

I spoke briefly with Ms. Thweatt on the day of the fire event. Ms. Thweatt was not present in the building at any time before or during the fire incident but arrived in order to retrieve a few items from her office when cleared for entry after the initial fire investigation was completed.

DEBORAH RUST:

Deborah Rust is an owner and partner at Tellers Gallery and Bar. She stated that the restaurant was fully occupied at the time of the fire event, and evacuated when the dining room began to fill with smoke.

RELEVANT TIMELINE

Friday, September 15, 2023.

0800- Stated arrival of Tammy Barrett, followed by Paul Schenck.

-Approximate use of microwave by Tammy Barrett heating up water for tea.

1100- Tellers Gallery and Bar restaurant below the target address opens for business.

1200- Arrival of Arin Liberman to her office space. All other office occupants presumed to have arrived by this time.

1230- Use of microwave by Faramola Shanekan heating up lunch in Tupperware.

1247-BC JC call log shows original structure fire call by 928-606-1106, Grace Piontek.

1248-BC JC call log shows call by 573-303-7672, Chloé Trayner.

1249- BC JC call log shows call by 314-378-3005, Natalie Hantak.

1250-Columbia Fire Department units dispatched to Commercial Structure Fire at target address.

1253-BC JC note stating that one of the complainants reported that the fire started in a microwave and heard popping sounds and saw sparks.

1253- Ladder 1 arrival, establishes South Ninth Street Command.

1254- Second alarm struck.

1255- Approximate time of "Bullpen" room flashover.

1258- Arrival of Fire Investigator Marshal 4 from north, and arrival of Fire Investigator Marshal 2 from the south directions.

1300- Approximate time of fire knockdown and beginning of overhaul operations.

-Approximate beginning of exterior fire investigation.

1330- Approximate time of initial interior fire investigation with full structural PPE and SCBA.

1756- Completion of initial fire investigation and transfer of custody of property to the property owner.

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

1500-Follow-up investigation on site via verbal consent while accompanied by property manager Auben Galloway. Additional photographs taken on site, with particular attention to electrical panels, and closer inspection of microwave oven.

Friday, September 22, 2023

1200-Follow-up visit at request of and via verbal consent with property manager Auben Galloway during brief investigation visit by Rachel McColley for Cincinnati Insurance, and Theodore Heitzler for West Bend Insurance. Additional photos were taken of the void area between the Teller's kitchen and the "Bullpen" room above it.

CONSIDERATIONS

The time from last confirmed use of the microwave appliance in the room of fire origin until first 911 call notification of fire is at most seventeen minutes. If there were a microwave appliance failure of some type, there would have been sufficient time for heat or sparks to reach surrounding surface materials and the nearby couch as competent fuel sources to rapidly develop into a larger fire event.

No video surveillance could be located showing the presence or departure of any other persons not previously identified either in the room of origin, nor outside of the front door egress downstairs during the seventeen minute period before the fire was discovered and occupants evacuated. Attempts at locating video surveillance from businesses across the street from the 5 S. 9th Street location were unsuccessful due to a delivery truck vehicle parked in the way of the camera view.

Although Grace Piontek was not able to articulate with certainty whether or not the microwave was the original source of the fire, It is likely that her immediate efforts for notification were instrumental in helping make sure that all ten

upstairs occupants in the building at the time of the fire were able to egress to safety past the "Bullpen" fire room of origin. As conditions rapidly worsened, occupants had a diminishing window for egress before flashover conditions occurred in the fire room, and before conditions rapidly deteriorated in the stairwell and upstairs corridor, creating a life-threatening scenario.

Ms. Piontek indicated that the area of the microwave had smoke and flame involvement when she discovered the fire. Fire effects show a pattern pointing to the floor in a "V pattern" beneath the microwave with mass loss of the material to the left of and behind the sofa couch, which had mass loss and a greater degree of consumption by fire on its left side than its right side. If an electrical source in the area of the countertop or the microwave itself became the original source of ignition, falldown of burning materials to the floor or couch might explain fire effects in that location.

Once the sofa couch and other combustible materials in the room ignited, the exterior ground floor door wedged in the open position created a flow path of oxygen to rapidly increase fire intensity toward flashover. The stairs leading up to the third floor spaces created a chimney effect of smoke and products of combustion throughout the upper floor.

Despite efforts to identify the make and model number of the microwave by its appearance in prior photographs, at the time of submittal of this report, I am neither able to identify the appliance nor determine if there was a pre-existing manufacturer recall for the device. Occupant statements suggest that it was present and regularly in use at the same location without incident for several years, potentially for ten or more such years of continuous use.

Fire effects in the room of origin show a definite "V Pattern" with mass loss and lines of demarcation leading to the area of the floor below and to the left of the microwave. Mass loss on the left side of the sofa couch further suggests that the area of origin is the floor or the side of the couch below the microwave.

The thermal destruction of the relocatable power tap found next to the countertop area suggested significant thermal insult. Power was run with a white extension cord from the receptacle on the west wall to the left of the refrigerator to the power tap. Although difficult to confirm due to thermal destruction of the cords and power tap assembly, I cannot rule out electrical failure causing an ignition source, especially if the refrigerator, toaster, and microwave appliances were all plugged into the same power tap. I found significant thermal destruction, but could not locate a confirmed arc fault location.

The one identified smoker among the ten occupants present the day of the fire incident stated that she has a designated smoking area in a parking garage outside of the structure. I found no evidence of smoking materials nor further reason to suspect any of the occupants would have used smoking materials in the room of origin.

After an initial asbestos testing report was made available from Techtron Environmental Solutions via Servpro of Columbia on September 21, 2023, Cincinnati Insurance as primary insurer of the property gave notice on October 06, 2023 that they will not be proceeding with further investigation on site.

CONCLUSION

After examination of the scene and taking statements from witnesses and parties involved, this fire presents as accidental in nature. The area of origin is the north side of a small back wall commissary type of area in the second floor room known as the "Bullpen." The cause of the fire is undetermined. It is possible that there was a device failure of a microwave that was last used a short duration of time before the fire event. I cannot rule out the possibility of an electrical cause, nor can I rule out the possibility of a separate unknown ignition source in the left-most side of a sofa couch or on the floor to the left beside it, based on fire effects.

Walt Goodman
Assistant Fire Marshal

Last update on 10/20/2023 at 08:49:50 by WALTER R GOODMAN

Narratives

Assistant Fire Chief - Chief 4

I (Assistant Fire Chief Heidenreich) responded emergency to the incident from the Fire Administration Headquarters.

I arrived on the scene and checked in with command. I was assigned to assist in managing operations and assessing the impact of department operations on the incident. I continuously monitored the building and fire conditions, fire department operations, and adjacent building impact during the incident.

After the department had controlled the incident, I held several press conferences to update the media and public about the event.

Once it was safe, I worked with all building owners, business owners, and stakeholders to assist them in evaluating the damage and impact on their operations.

I cleared the scene and returned to service after completing all these duties.

Jeffrey M. Heidenreich
Assistant Fire Chief
Chief 4

Last update on 09/27/2023 at 10:31:38 by JEFFREY HEIDENREICH

Report Completion

Officer In Charge

MARTIN, PETER

Rank FIRE BATTALION CHIEF

Assignment Battalion Chief 2

Member Completing Report

GOODMAN, WALTER R

Rank ASST FIRE MARSHAL Signature

Assignment Marshal 2

Date 10/24/2023


