



CITY OF COLUMBIA MO FIRE DEPARTMENT

Incident Report

Incident Number
2401252

Incident type
Combustible/flammable gas/liquid condition, other

PSAP Call Date/Time
01/26/2024 12:08:02

Officer in Charge
METZ, JOHN, FIRE DIVISION CHIEF

Incident Address 7 HOSPITAL DR, COLUMBIA, MO, 65201	County --	Fire Zone 15S WD 5810
Property Type Hospital: medical, pediatrics, psychiatric. Includes hospital-type infirmaries and specialty hospitals where treatment is provided on a 24-hour basis.		

Dispatch Information			
Alarm Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:08:02	Notification Type	911 Call
Number of Alarms	2		

Incident Location Information

Population Density	Suburban	High Hazard IBC Classification?	Yes
Property Loss	5,000,000	Contents Loss	1,000,000
Presence of Detectors	Present	Presence of Detectors	Combination smoke and heat in a single unit
Detector Power Supply	Hardwire with battery backup	Detector Operation	Detector failed to operate
Detector Failure Reason	Power failure, hardwired det. shut off, disconnect		

Apparatus**Department Unit 1 of 21**

Apparatus Name	Air Truck	Dispatch Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:28:31
Type	Breathing apparatus support	Acknowledge Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:28:31
# of Crewmembers	1	En Route Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:28:31
Use	Other	Arrive Date/Time	01/26/2024 13:26:42
ALS Support Capable	No	Clear Date/Time	01/26/2024 15:50:49
Location at Dispatch	Assigned station	Back in Service Date/Time	01/26/2024 15:50:49
Crewmembers	BECKFORD, DAVID		

Apparatus**Department Unit 2 of 21**

Apparatus Name	Assistant Fire Chief - Chief 3	Dispatch Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:28:15
Type	Chief officer car	Acknowledge Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:28:15
# of Crewmembers	1	En Route Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:28:15
Use	Other	Arrive Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:32:17
ALS Support Capable	No	Clear Date/Time	01/26/2024 13:40:58
Location at Dispatch	Assigned station	Back in Service Date/Time	01/26/2024 13:40:58
Crewmembers	JENKINS, JERRY		

Apparatus**Department Unit 3 of 21**

Apparatus Name	Assistant Fire Chief - Chief 4	Dispatch Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:32:16
Type	Chief officer car	Acknowledge Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:32:16
# of Crewmembers	1	En Route Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:32:16
Use	Other	Arrive Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:32:16
ALS Support Capable	No	Clear Date/Time	01/26/2024 18:00:00
Location at Dispatch	Assigned station	Back in Service Date/Time	01/26/2024 18:00:00
Crewmembers	HEIDENREICH, JEFFREY		

Apparatus**Department Unit 4 of 21**

Apparatus Name	Battalion Chief 3	Dispatch Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:16:06
Type	Chief officer car	Acknowledge Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:16:06
# of Crewmembers	1	En Route Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:16:34
Use	Other	Arrive Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:22:05
ALS Support Capable	No	Clear Date/Time	01/26/2024 15:57:52
Location at Dispatch	Assigned station	Back in Service Date/Time	01/26/2024 15:57:52
Crewmembers	SHEWMAKE, LESTER		

Apparatus**Department Unit 5 of 21**

Apparatus Name	Battalion Chief 4	Dispatch Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:08:02
Type	Chief officer car	Acknowledge Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:08:02
# of Crewmembers	1	En Route Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:08:02
Use	Other	Arrive Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:08:02
ALS Support Capable	No	Clear Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:08:02
Location at Dispatch	Assigned station	Back in Service Date/Time	01/26/2024 19:00:00
Crewmembers	BAUER, MICHAEL		

Apparatus**Department Unit 6 of 21**

Apparatus Name	Deputy Fire Chief - Chief 2	Dispatch Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:31:56
Type	Chief officer car	Acknowledge Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:31:56
# of Crewmembers	1	En Route Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:31:56
Use	Suppression	Arrive Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:31:56
ALS Support Capable	No	Clear Date/Time	01/26/2024 17:10:00
Location at Dispatch	Assigned station	Back in Service Date/Time	01/26/2024
Crewmembers	AMBRA, JOHN		

Apparatus**Department Unit 7 of 21**

Apparatus Name	Division Chief 6	Dispatch Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:16:06
Type	Chief officer car	Acknowledge Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:16:06
# of Crewmembers	1	En Route Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:17:03
Use	Other	Arrive Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:19:59
ALS Support Capable	No	Clear Date/Time	01/26/2024 15:57:52
Location at Dispatch	Assigned station	Back in Service Date/Time	01/26/2024 15:57:52
Crewmembers	METZ, JOHN		

Apparatus**Department Unit 8 of 21**

Apparatus Name	Engine 1	Dispatch Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:16:06
Type	Engine	Acknowledge Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:16:06
# of Crewmembers	3	En Route Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:17:25
Use	Suppression	Arrive Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:20:28
ALS Support Capable	No	Clear Date/Time	01/26/2024 15:49:02
Location at Dispatch	Assigned station	Back in Service Date/Time	01/26/2024 15:49:02
Crewmembers	HEYEN, JACOB HARRIS, KENNETH Johnson, Jacolby		

Apparatus**Department Unit 9 of 21**

Apparatus Name	Engine 2	Dispatch Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:29:05
Type	Engine	Acknowledge Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:29:05
# of Crewmembers	2	En Route Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:29:05
Use	Other	Arrive Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:34:09
ALS Support Capable	No	Clear Date/Time	01/26/2024 15:51:18
Location at Dispatch	Assigned station	Back in Service Date/Time	01/26/2024 15:51:18
Crewmembers	SWANN, MITCHELL Lingle, Tyler C		

Apparatus**Department Unit 10 of 21**

Apparatus Name	Hazmat Truck	Dispatch Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:51:24
Type	HazMat unit	Acknowledge Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:51:24
# of Crewmembers	1	En Route Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:51:24
Use	Other	Arrive Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:59:15
ALS Support Capable	No	Clear Date/Time	01/26/2024 16:26:26
Location at Dispatch	Assigned station	Back in Service Date/Time	01/26/2024 16:26:26
Crewmembers	Thomas, Jason		

Apparatus**Department Unit 11 of 21**

Apparatus Name	Ladder 1	Dispatch Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:16:06
Type	Truck or aerial	Acknowledge Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:16:06
# of Crewmembers	3	En Route Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:17:12
Use	Suppression	Arrive Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:20:17
ALS Support Capable	No	Clear Date/Time	01/26/2024 15:51:54
Location at Dispatch	Assigned station	Back in Service Date/Time	01/26/2024 15:51:54
Crewmembers	ABBOTT, DEREK GRACE, ZACHARY R Edwards, Logan		

Apparatus**Department Unit 12 of 21**

Apparatus Name	Ladder 2	Dispatch Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:20:11
Type	Truck or aerial	Acknowledge Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:20:11
# of Crewmembers	3	En Route Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:20:11
Use	Suppression	Arrive Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:30:00
ALS Support Capable	No	Clear Date/Time	01/26/2024 15:09:20
Location at Dispatch	Assigned station	Back in Service Date/Time	01/26/2024 15:09:20
Crewmembers	RICHARDS, DUSTIN Weltha, Jordan ISOM, ALEX		

Apparatus**Department Unit 13 of 21**

Apparatus Name	Marshal 2	Dispatch Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:16:06
Type	Other apparatus/resource	Acknowledge Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:16:06
# of Crewmembers	1	En Route Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:17:12
Use	Other	Arrive Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:20:17
ALS Support Capable	No	Clear Date/Time	01/26/2024 18:00:00
Location at Dispatch	Assigned station	Back in Service Date/Time	01/26/2024 18:00:00
Crewmembers	Gilstrap, Christopher		

Apparatus**Department Unit 14 of 21**

Apparatus Name	Marshal 4	Dispatch Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:30:16
Type	Other apparatus/resource	Acknowledge Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:30:16
# of Crewmembers	1	En Route Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:30:16
Use	Other	Arrive Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:30:16
ALS Support Capable	No	Clear Date/Time	01/26/2024 18:00:00
Location at Dispatch	Assigned station	Back in Service Date/Time	01/26/2024
Crewmembers	RIGGS, STEVEN		

Apparatus**Department Unit 15 of 21**

Apparatus Name	Quint 11	Dispatch Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:32:25
Type	Quint	Acknowledge Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:32:25
# of Crewmembers	3	En Route Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:32:25
Use	Suppression	Arrive Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:43:23
ALS Support Capable	No	Clear Date/Time	01/26/2024 15:34:10
Location at Dispatch	Assigned station	Back in Service Date/Time	01/26/2024 15:34:10
Crewmembers	ROHR, DENNIS MORRIS, WILLIAM EDWARDS, KYLE T		

Apparatus**Department Unit 16 of 21**

Apparatus Name	Quint 3	Dispatch Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:10:26
Type	Quint	Acknowledge Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:10:26
# of Crewmembers	3	En Route Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:12:00
Use	Suppression	Arrive Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:15:37
ALS Support Capable	No	Clear Date/Time	01/26/2024 18:00:00
Location at Dispatch	Assigned station	Back in Service Date/Time	01/26/2024 18:00:00
Crewmembers	CARD, JOSHUA GARCIA, GABRIEL A BLACKWELL, CHRISTOPHER		

Apparatus**Department Unit 17 of 21**

Apparatus Name	Quint 4	Dispatch Date/Time	01/26/2024 14:30:45
Type	Quint	Acknowledge Date/Time	01/26/2024 14:30:45
# of Crewmembers	3	En Route Date/Time	01/26/2024 14:30:45
Use	Suppression	Arrive Date/Time	01/26/2024 14:30:45
ALS Support Capable	No	Clear Date/Time	01/26/2024 15:31:36
Location at Dispatch	Assigned station	Back in Service Date/Time	01/26/2024 15:32:10
Crewmembers	Malpiedi, Conner J CRANMER, ERIK D LACY, JONATHON		

Apparatus**Department Unit 18 of 21**

Apparatus Name	Quint 7	Dispatch Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:14:11
Type	Quint	Acknowledge Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:14:11
# of Crewmembers	3	En Route Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:17:31
Use	Suppression	Arrive Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:22:33
ALS Support Capable	No	Clear Date/Time	01/26/2024 15:31:04
Location at Dispatch	Assigned station	Back in Service Date/Time	01/26/2024 15:31:04
Crewmembers	BERLEMANN, JAMES BRAKE, ANTHONY RICHERSON, DAVID		

Apparatus**Department Unit 19 of 21**

Apparatus Name	Quint 9	Dispatch Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:29:52
Type	Quint	Acknowledge Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:29:52
# of Crewmembers	3	En Route Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:29:52
Use	Suppression	Arrive Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:34:44
ALS Support Capable	No	Clear Date/Time	01/26/2024 16:26:26
Location at Dispatch	Assigned station	Back in Service Date/Time	01/26/2024 16:26:26
Crewmembers	CUMMINS, DAVID W HANKS, PATRICK D WEHMEYER, KARA		

Apparatus**Department Unit 20 of 21**

Apparatus Name	Safety 1	Dispatch Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:16:07
Type	Other apparatus/resource	Acknowledge Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:16:07
# of Crewmembers	1	En Route Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:17:02
Use	Other	Arrive Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:20:36
ALS Support Capable	No	Clear Date/Time	01/26/2024 15:50:13
Location at Dispatch	Assigned station	Back in Service Date/Time	01/26/2024 15:50:13
Crewmembers	COLLINS, JUSTIN M		

Apparatus**Department Unit 21 of 21**

Apparatus Name	Squad 3	Dispatch Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:16:06
Type	Rescue unit	Acknowledge Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:16:06
# of Crewmembers	3	En Route Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:18:34
Use	Other	Arrive Date/Time	01/26/2024 12:20:03
ALS Support Capable	No	Clear Date/Time	01/26/2024 15:50:49
Location at Dispatch	Assigned station	Back in Service Date/Time	01/26/2024 15:50:49
Crewmembers	DAVISON, BRIAN P KILBREATH, JARED VANSTEENBURGH, SHANE		

Person Involved**MR Connor Wilson. - 1 of 3**

Incident Involvement	Involved Person	Primary Phone	(573) 808-2812 (mobile)
Home Address	2600 E State Hwy Mm, Ashland, MO, 65010	Age	26 Years
Gender	Male	Race	White
Ethnicity	Non Hispanic or Latino		

Person Involved**MR Joseph Boyd. - 2 of 3**

Incident Involvement	Involved Person	Home Address	115 W Phyllis Ave, Columbia, MO, 65202
Age	53 Years	Gender	Male
Race	White	Ethnicity	Non Hispanic or Latino

Person Involved**Shawn. - 3 of 3**

Incident Involvement	Involved Person	Gender	Male
Race	White		

Weather Information

Temperature	39 °F	Wind Speed	0 mph
Wind Direction	North	Humidity	97%
Weather Type	Overcast, over 9/10 cloud cover		

Fire Information**Equipment Involved in Ignition**

No

Vehicle involved in Incident?

No

Hazardous Materials Information**HazMat Released**

None

Equipment Involved in Release?

No

Vehicle Involved in Release?

No

Actions Taken**Department**

Remove hazard

Actions Taken**-- | Personnel****Gilstrap, Christopher**

Investigate

Actions Taken**-- | Personnel****BAUER, MICHAEL**

Investigate

Investigate fire out on arrival

Narratives

Department NFIRS Narrative

I, John Metz, responded to this incident as they duty Division Chief. Monitoring radio traffic, I heard Q3, who was responded to a fire alarm at the target address, upgrade the incident to a structure fire as there were reports of an explosion and fire. I arrived just behind E1 and L1. Q3 had established Hospital Command and advised he was going to the seventh floor where there was reported to be active fire. I assumed Hospital Command and moved all units to the Brown tactical channel. Radio communications were challenging and some traffic had to be conducted on the repeated primary channel (purple).

Q3 arrived on floor seven, reported evidence of an explosion, and requested extra crews and a high-rise pack. E1 w/200' of 2.5" and a high-rise pack, L1 and S3 responded to the seventh floor. I assigned Capt. Collins (Safety 1) to monitor crews on the seventh floor. Q3 requested a CGM and SF1 delivered one. L1 requested additional crews for search, more hoseline, and that the HVAC be shut off. L1, S3 met up with L1 and I assigned Q7 to deliver 300' of 2.5" to the seventh floor. A building rep was at the command post and relayed all our requests regarding utilities and building functions. When L2 arrived, they were assigned as RIC 1.

At approximately 1228 hours we requested second alarm for additional personnel. L1 was reporting extensive explosion damage and advised of possible broken HM bottles and cylinders. All personnel operating on the seventh floor were advised to be "on-air". L1 requested an additional company to search and E2 was assigned. E1 advised hose lines were stretched to the fire area however there was no active fire at this time. Building reps were advised of an active water leak on seven and shut off the water. CGM readings by L1 indicated 30-40 ppm of CO and that they had an all-clear on the search.

I assigned SF1 to be a forward-deployed tactical boss and designated him as Division 7 w/Q3, E1, L1, E2, S3, and Q7 assigned. Q4 arrived and brought air bottles to be shuttled to a staging area on the sixth floor. Q9 was assigned to take the company-level pH paper to the crews working on seven. Q4 was assigned to confirm the evacuation of floors five and six. Transitioning to a possible HM incident, all crews withdrew to the sixth floor. Q11 was assigned as lobby control. Members of the FMO went to retrieve the HazMat truck and Air Truck. All crews withdrew to the ground floor exterior to await the HM truck. Emergency decon and a three-step decon was established.

Hazmat operations were established with Capt. Swann as HM Operations. Capt. Grace was HM Safety, Capt. Berlemann was Research. Capt. Collins continued as overall safety officer. An entry team of Cummins and Wehmeyer in Level B suits was established. Also in Level B suits was the back-up team of Davison and Isom who staged on the fifth floor when the entry team went to seven. The entry team reported no hits on the pH paper, F paper or the Ki paper. Water papers indicated the presence of water. The five gas monitor indicated 20 ppm VOC but that was deemed an expected, non-actionable level. As the crews exited, they went through decon.

Q4 conducted a secondary search of floors 1-4 and advised all clear except for some people on the first floor that MU had asked to move into an auditorium outside of the hazard zone. MUPD, Hospital Security, and other MU personnel attempted to secure all access to the building however it appeared some staff evaded their efforts.

The results of the hazmat team's survey were relayed to MU personnel including the fact that there was extensive explosion damage and there appeared to be broken bottles in some of the labs. Due to heavy damage, we requested the building be checked by a structural engineer before it was turned back over to MU. MU arranged for Crockett Engineer to conduct the survey and they did an interior and exterior inspection and, advised it was safe to re-enter.

Fire crews began removing and decontaminating their equipment. Once all equipment was removed, MU was advised they could reoccupy floors 1-6 but floor seven was still restricted for the investigation. Unassigned crews were released from the scene and Q3 was to remain with the investigators. BC3 and I turned Hospital Command back over to Q3 and cleared the scene in service. JMETZ

Last update on 01/27/2024 at 17:11:19 by JOHN METZ

Narratives

Quint 3

On 1/26/24 at 1210 hours, Q3 responded to 7 Hospital Dr., Medical Science Building, for report of a fire alarm. En route BCJC notes indicated reports of black smoke and people evacuating the building. While en route, I (Capt. J. Card) upgraded the response to a Commercial Structure Fire.

Upon our arrival, I established "Hospital Command". We found a large hospital building with nothing showing. People were actively evacuating the structure. Security personnel met us in the parking area and advised they had an active fire on the seventh floor. I informed C6 that we were heading to the seventh floor to investigate. I was unsure how well our portable radios would work inside the building so I had C6 assume Command upon his arrival. FF Kilbreth and I were led to the west stairwell which we took to the seventh floor. Once there we were directed to the area where they believed the fire was. We found a smoke haze in the hallway and higher heat conditions in the affected area. I advised Command that we would need highrise packs and extra crews to the seventh floor. FF Kilbreth and I continued our search of the area and found a small amount of fire inside one room. FF Kilbreth was able to extinguish that fire using the water can. We encountered heavy damage and collapse of doorways and block walls the further east we traveled. I reported to Command that we had an apparent explosion and would need a 4-gas monitor. FF Kilbreth and I found no further fire and began a search for victims.

We made contact with SF1 and L1 crew and I advised them of the situation. We continued the search of the 7th floor and found no victims. L1 crew advised they found multiple broken chemical containers and advised all companies on the 7th floor should go on air. SF1 advised all companies to relocate to the 5th floor and stage. On our way down we were advised to exit the building and stage outside awaiting the hazmat team. Once outside we assisted L1 crew with setting up the three-step decon. Command then assigned us as a RIC team with L2 crew. We staged our RIC equipment near the entry point.

Once all operations inside were concluded we assisted with breaking down decon and loading hose. Command was passed back to Q3. We remained on the scene while the fire marshals investigated the incident. Once the investigation was complete and the building was turned back to University personnel, Command was transferred to Marshal 2.

Q3 cleared the scene in service.

Capt. J. Card

Last update on 01/27/2024 at 20:42:20 by JOSHUA CARD

Narratives

Quint 7

Quint 7 arrived on scene and staged.

We were directed by command to take 300' of 2.5" hose to the 7th floor.

Q7's crew hauled 300' of 2.5" hose to the 7th floor where we met with Engine 1's crew. At that time it was decided to evacuate the building. Q7's crew exited the building. All companies gathered at the HazMat truck, where we received assignments. I, Captain Berlemann, was assigned to research and to act as a scribe. Captain Strawn asked me to also gather information from the building officials that were on scene.

I split the Q7 crew, assigning Brake to help the L1 crew with decon. I directed Engineer Richerson to join me and work as my assistant, if needed.

I met with Anandhi Upendian and Rebekah Broadus, who worked in the affected lab. They drew a map of the lab, and detailed on the map where we could find a flam locker which included a list of all chemicals that were in the lab. I gave this information to the Entry Team.

I went to the Hazmat truck and prepared to research any information that came in. It was determined that nothing required research after the Entry Team investigated the area.

Q7's crew regrouped, and was directed by command to go the 7th floor and retrieve our hose-line, which we did.

I returned Q7 to service.

Report by Captain Berlemann

Last update on 01/27/2024 at 07:04:07 by JAMES BERLEMANN

Narratives

Engine 1

Upon arrival, E1 was assigned to take the hose line to the seventh floor and assist with fire attack. We took 250 feet of 2 ½", hooked the standpipe on the sixth and stretched the seventh floor. We connected to the high rise pack and extended. We then extended with 2 ½" brought up by Q7.

Division 7 advised the fire was extinguished and E1 staged in the stairwell until we exited the building to stage on the exterior.

E1 was then assigned to retrieve the hose and the wagons, used to transport equipment. After equipment was rehabbed E1 assumed lobby control.

Lobby control was then turned over to MU maintenance and the elevators were placed back in service.

E1 was returned to service per Command.

Last update on 01/27/2024 at 18:15:05 by KENNETH HARRIS

Narratives

Ladder 1

Ladder 1 arrived on the scene and went to the 7th floor via the West stairs to assist in the investigation. I met with Q3 who advised they had heavy damage from what appeared to be an explosion.

L1 performed a primary search of the 7th floor with nothing found. I advised Command of heavy damage, multiple doors and walls blown in as well as busted water pipes on floor 7. I advised command of several broken chemical beakers on the floor and made a recommendation that everyone should be on the 7th floor should be on air. I met with Safety 1 and we both agreed that this was no longer a fire incident but a Hazmat incident.

The crew of Ladder 1 exited the building and was assigned to set up Decon. I placed Engineer Abbott in charge of deacon while I assumed the role of the Haz Mat Safety Officer.

The crew of Ladder 1 performed decon on all CFD crews that exited the building.

Command advised we could return to service.

I placed Ladder 1 back in service,

Last update on 02/02/2024 at 12:32:59 by Zachary Grace

Narratives

Division Chief 6

Primary unit on the incident. Please see the main NFIRS report narrative.

Last update on --/--/-- at --:--:-- by JOHN METZ

Narratives

Safety 1

I (Justin Collins) arrived on the scene and switched to channel brown. I made a face-to-face with command and I was instructed to enter the building and provide a secondary size-up.

I went to the 7th floor of the target building via the stairs. I met with Q3 and L1 officers who showed me the damage from what appeared to be an explosion. After confirming there was no fire remaining, L1 Capt. and I determined the call was now a HAZMAT. I relayed this to Command and I assumed operations on the 7th floor.

Crews deployed hose lines and investigated the area. We determined there was no immediate threat and moved all companies outside to stage. I stayed inside and facilitated evacuation of the entire building via the MU property reps.

Once the HAZMAT team was operational I went back to the 7th floor with them and provided communication between the team and Command. Once the entry team had completed their tasks we exited the building and gave Command a briefing of the findings.

Command assigned me to escort a building engineer to the 7th floor for an evaluation of the damage. After the engineer completed his assessment I confirmed with him that he no longer needed the FD to keep the building locked down. He advised his team would do an outside assessment and then they would assume command of the building.

I advised Command of the engineer's information. I assisted with breaking down hoselines and helping with rehabing equipment.

Command advised I could return to service.

I returned SF1 to service and cleared the scene.

Last update on 01/26/2024 at 20:00:50 by JUSTIN M COLLINS

Narratives

Battalion Chief 3

BC3 was dispatched and responded.

BC3 arrived and reported to the Command Post to assist CF6 with tracking resources.

The initial alarm had Q3,E1,Q7,L1,L2,S3 and Safety 1. Q3 was in the structure and reported needing crews and hose. L1,E1 and S3 were assigned to enter the structure and take hose to the 7th floor. The crews then advised of needing more hose. Q7 was assigned to take more hose to the 7th floor. Safety 1 was also on the 7th floor and he was assigned interior operations with the radio designation of Division 7. L2 was assigned as RIC

It was then decided to strike a 2nd alarm. The crews that were assigned were E2,Q9,Q4 and Q11. The Fire Marshalls and Fire Academy staff went and got the Air Truck and the Hazmat truck to bring them to the scene. E2 was assigned to go to the 7th floor. Q9 was tasked with taking extra air bottles and staging on the 6th floor. Q4 was assigned to evacuate the 5th and 6th floor. Q11 was assigned lobby control.

Division 7 then reported that the fire was out but there was some odors on the 7th floor and we would need to have hazmat personnel check the scene. They also had moved everyone to the 6th floor for safety. They had a CGM at this time and were checking the area unknown what readings they had received. All of the crews then exited the structure to begin Hazmat Operations.

Capt Swann was Hazmat Operations, Capt Grace was Hazmat Safety, Capt Berlemann was Research and Capt Collins was overall Safety. Eng Cummins and FF Wehmeyer suited out in Level B suits and were the initial entry team. Capt Davison and Eng Isom were the backup team, they suited up and staged on the 5th floor in case the entry team needed assistance. Eng VanSteenburgh and Eng Hanks also dressed out and staged at the Hazmat Truck. L1 had setup a 3 step decon. RIC was staffed with L2 and Q3 crew members at this time. The BRS rookies were also on scene and were assisting crews with getting supplies and helping staff the decon line.

The entry team was surveying the 7th floor and reported of no hits on the pH paper, F paper and the Ki paper. They advised the water papers were indicating water and the 5 gas monitor was reporting 20 ppm on the VOC. The chemicals that were reported to our staff by MU personnel would give off a VOC, so a reading of 20 ppm was below any action levels. When the entry team's air was getting low they exited the building and went through decon. The backup team also went through decon and the 3rd entry team doffed their suits.

MUPD and other staff had evacuated all of the personnel working on floors 1-6. We had Q4 enter the building and check floors 1-4 for a secondary search to ensure no one was still in the building. They reported back that floors 2-4 were clear however there was some staff on the 1st floor in an auditorium. These people were allowed to stay in the auditorium to stay out of the weather. The crew of Q4 escorted staff to some various labs on the first floor to check on animals that were housed in them.

The entry team and Capt Swann reported to the Command Post and advised of their findings. They reported no hits on various papers. They did say there was significant damage in the areas and there was some broken hazmat type bottles in one of the labs.

In the Command Post we had communicated with various MU staff and other CFD Chief Officers who had also been in contact with MU staff. There was a structural engineer who was on scene that was requested by MU. We had the engineer enter the structure with Safety 1 and they went to the 7th floor to inspect the area. We had crews start breaking down hose lines and begin cleaning up supplies. We left the decon staff in place in case we needed to decon anyone else. E1, E2 and Q7 entered the structure and went to the 7th floor and picked up all the hose.

When the structural engineer had done his inspection and reported the building was safe to occupy. We spoke with MU Staff and advised they could occupy floors 1-6 but we requested staff stay off the 7th floor until the Fire Marshalls had conducted their investigation. We then returned the following companies back to service; Q4, L2, Q7, Q11, E1, S3, Safety 1 and the Air Truck. E2, L1, Q3 and Q9 stayed on scene a little while longer cleaning up. When they had picked up supplies and readied the Hazmat Truck for service all the other units with the exception of Q3 cleared and returned to service.

We then spoke with Q3 officer and advised that we (CF6 and I) were going to clear the scene and Command was transferred back to Q3. I then rode with CF6 back to Station 1 as the Division 2 vehicle had been taken and used by incoming staff while the 2nd alarm was going on.

I then got the Division 2 vehicle back and returned to service with no other actions taken.

Completed by Lester Shewmake

Last update on 01/26/2024 at 19:43:46 by LESTER SHEWMAKE

Narratives

Squad 3

Squad Three arrived on the scene and checked in with command. We then followed Engine One up the stairs to floor number seven. While ascending the stairwell, Ladder One requested someone assist with search of the seventh floor. I contacted command and let them know we were almost to the seventh floor and would assist Ladder One with primary search. We coordinated with Ladder One to search the effected area of the seventh floor and after a period of time we determined it was all clear and we needed to exit due to chemicals that were mixed with water on the floor.

We exited the structure and then we were requested to join the Haz-Mat team. I was assigned to suit up in a level B suit and be standby on the seventh floor with Engineer Isom. While I was in staging on the seventh floor Engineer VanSteenburgh also donned a level B suit to be an additional Haz-Mat crew in staging by the Haz-Mat truck. The primary Haz-Mat crew was low on air and we exited with them to decon in the parking lot as you exit the building. After doffing our suits we went to rehab.

After rehab we assisted other crews with stowing their equipment and loading hose. I notified Incident Command that we were prepared for an assignment. After a period of time we were cleared the scene and returned the Air Truck to Station Seven.

Last update on 02/01/2024 at 18:55:18 by BRIAN P DAVISON

Narratives

Ladder 2

Ladder 2 arrived on scene and were assigned RIC duties. Ladder 2 personnel ascended to the 6th floor with equipment. Once we arrived, it was determined that all crews needed to report back outside the building due to a possible hazmat issue. Ladder 2 continued to stage outside for the duration of the incident as RIC 1 assisting with other outside duties. Engineer Isom broke off from RIC to assist with the Haz-Mat side of the incident. Ladder 2 was then returned to service by command.

Capt. Dustin Richards

Last update on 01/27/2024 at 21:16:47 by DUSTIN RICHARDS

Narratives

Quint 11

This report was completed by Dennis Rohr.

On January 26, 2024 at approximately 1232 hours BCJC dispatched Quint 11 to 7 Hospital Drive for a reported commercial structure fire. We arrived on the scene and checked in with command. We were instructed by Chief 6 to maintain lobby control.

We entered the building and met with some members that were part of maintenance. I asked them to give us the elevator keys. We proceeded to the elevators and established control. We assisted with moving various members to the target area.

On the first floor were numerous members of the department of the University of Missouri. I asked them questions about what chemicals or hazards were on the seventh floor. I also inquired about the utilities and the air handlers. I relayed all information back to command.

Once the scene was under control Chief 6 said we could return to service. Quint 11 cleared the scene. I placed Quint 11 back in service.

Last update on 01/26/2024 at 19:12:50 by DENNIS ROHR

Narratives

Assistant Fire Chief - Chief 3

I (Assistant Fire Chief Jerry Jenkins - Chief 3) arrived on the scene and staged my staff car on Dean's Drive.

I walked to the Command Post and checked in.

I stood by near the command post. I did take pictures of the crews that were outside the building.

After the incident was under control, I cleared the scene to assist with covering the city.

Last update on 01/31/2024 at 10:30:37 by JERRY JENKINS

Narratives

Assistant Fire Chief - Chief 4

I (Chief Heidenreich) responded to the incident at 7 Hospital Drive after a fire and possible explosion were reported in the building.

I arrived on the scene and checked in with the incident commander and the other administrative chiefs.

I was assigned the following duties: plan and coordinate a Hazmat area of operations with the Hazmat Truck and Air Truck, initiate a recall of additional personnel to staff two additional city fire units, coordinate staffing with additional chiefs responding into the city, act as the fire PIO, and serve as a liaison between MU leadership and PIO staff. All of these duties were performed and completed.

After operations cleared the scene for the investigation to begin, I coordinated the investigation efforts with MU leadership and staff. Finally, I released the scene back to MU staff once the investigation was completed.

I (Chief Heidenreich) cleared the scene and returned to service.

Report by:
Jeffrey M. Heidenreich
Assistant Fire Chief

Last update on 02/05/2024 at 12:03:50 by JEFFREY HEIDENREICH

Narratives

Deputy Fire Chief - Chief 2

I responded to the scene and advanced to the command post. I began assessing the remaining Columbia Fire Department units available and evaluated the best coverage for the city. I made contact with officers from the available units and advised them to change quarters to Stations 1,2, and 3. I made phone contact with Battalion Chief Martin (BC2) and advised him to begin recalling personnel due to this incident with an unknown duration.

I left the command post and advanced to the University Hospital conference room to begin communications with their leadership team. In this setting I was able to communicate our operations and plans as they were developing.

I continued communications with UHC staff and command until the incident was brought under control.

Deputy Chief John Ambra

Last update on 02/01/2024 at 18:17:40 by JOHN AMBRA

Narratives

Quint 4

Quint 4's crew responded on the second alarm dispatch. Q4's crew arrived on the scene and command advised my crew respond to the staging area with spare SCBA bottles.

Q4's crew was assigned to search the 5th and 6th floors for victims. Q4's crew searched those floors with no one located. Command advised us to return to the staging area. Command assigned us to do a secondary search of floors 2-4 no victims were located.

Q4 was then assigned to check a reported strange odor in room M411. Q4's crew utilized the CGM and proceeded to that room which was small and contained some office equipment and 3 metal cabinets with some bottles of chemicals but all were intact and no damage to the cabinets or bottles. No readings were detected on the CGM.

Q4 was assigned an escort detail of two University employees who needed to check on their labs on the first floor.

Once that assignment was complete we were returned to service.

Captain Erik Cranmer

Last update on 01/27/2024 at 07:31:18 by ERIK D CRANMER

Narratives

Marshal 4

On 01/26/2024 at 12:10 hours, Columbia Fire Department was dispatched to a commercial structure fire at 7 Hospital Dr.

I, Steve Riggs, Marshal 4 (M4), responded when the incident was initially dispatched. Upon arrival Incident Command (IC) advised me to stand by until scene was safe to enter.

Once the scene was safe to enter I assisted Marshal 2 (M2) with the fire investigation on the seventh floor by photographing the scene and interviewing witnesses.

I observed significant structural damage along with fire, heat, and smoke damage throughout the northeast portion of the seventh floor. See M2's Fire Investigation Report for cause and origin.

I interviewed Shawn Griffon (573-228-0705) the Foreman for Crum Construction. Shawn stated Joe Boyd (573 489-3358) was using an acetylene torch to braze copper tubing. Shawn stated he noticed fire and went to get an extinguisher. He discharged the extinguisher on the fire and started to evacuate himself and others on the seventh floor. Shawn stated when he and Joe were leaving he felt a wave of air hit him from behind.

I interviewed Runting Li (573-825-8645), an employee for the University. Runting stated she had been moving mice from another floor into the Surgery Recovery room for about five minutes before the fire. Runting stated she could smell something in the area but was unable to determine what she smelled while she was moving mice.

When the investigation was completed I cleared the scene.

Last update on 01/29/2024 at 17:18:06 by STEVEN RIGGS

Narratives

Quint 9

On 1/26/24 (Q9) responded to 7 Hospital Dr for a second alarm request for a CSF.

Once arrival, Q9 reported to the Command post. Command requested that we respond to the 7th floor and monitor for hazardous materials.

Myself, Engineer Hanks, and FF Wehmeyer responded to the 7th floor via the stairwell. We began monitoring the 7th floor using a CGM and PH paper. I located a room with significant damage with multiple chemicals on the ground broken, and mixed together. We had no readings on our CGM, or PH paper change. Due to the chemical potential, I made the decision to back out and upgrade the response to a hazmat team response. We exited the building, and reported to the Command post. I updated Command on our findings and requested the upgrade. The HazMat Branch led by Captain Swann began gathering all equipment to respond to the 7th floor to monitor. Myself and FF Wehmeyer were assigned the entry team. We were checked by EMS, and dressed out into level B encapsulated suits. Once we began responding into the building, a back up crew was also suited up and placed into the operations. We used the elevator to respond to the 7th floor, we began monitoring the air using multiple AreaRae's and sampling papers, and a canberra. When we entered the room with the most damage, we had a color change in both water papers, (Watesmo, and Hydrion). The AreaRae also showed a 3 % LEL, and 20 PPM VOC. I reported these findings to Command. I utilized a Ipad to document damage to the area including structural damage. Once our monitoring operations were complete, we reported we were leaving the 7th floor with operations (Safety 1). Once we exited the building, we reported to Decon. Myself and FF Wehmeyer were fully decontaminated and were evaluated by EMS. Once we were cleared, I reported to Command to report our findings. We began gathering all equipment back on the hazmat truck, and taking an inventory of all equipment used. Once units were out of the operational area, we were cleared.

I returned Q9 and HazMat Truck back to service.

Report completed by Engineer Cummins

Last update on 01/26/2024 at 20:44:27 by DAVID W CUMMINS

Narratives

Engine 2

On Friday 01/26/24 at 1208 hrs E2 was dispatched to a second alarm at 7 Hospital Drive. E2 responded to the emergency from quarters. While en route BCJC advised Q3 arrived and found a fire on the 7th floor.

E2 arrived on scene. Command assigned E2 to primary search on the sixth floor.

E2's crew used the west stairwell to ascend to the sixth floor. I opened the door to the sixth floor, and we found debris and concrete walls that appeared to be damaged by an explosion. I noticed a fruity-smelling odor in the air. We met L2 just inside the door to the sixth floor. They reported that the sixth-floor primary search was complete, and nothing found. They reported heavy damage to the entire floor. I confirmed with Command that the sixth floor was clear. E2 met L1, E1, Q7, Q3 and S1 in the stairwell. Due to the odor, we exited the building.

Command resigned me to the Hazmat Officer. Captain Berleman was assigned research. Captain Grace was assigned hazmat safety officer. Engineer Abbott was assigned decon officer. Engineer Cummins was assigned entry team one with firefighter Wehmeyer. Captain Davidson was assigned entry team two with Engineer Isom. L2 and Q3 were assigned RIC. Firefighter Beckford and Firefighter Lingle prepped all of the hazmat monitors and equipment for the entry teams. Fire Trainer Bannister was assigned medical for the entry teams. Team one, two and three dressed out in encapsulated level B suits. Both teams were briefed on their task by research and MU employees. Engineer Vansteenburgh was assigned entry team three with Engineer Hanks. Entry team three was dressed out and staged off air by the hazmat truck.

All crews and equipment exited the building and were decontaminated. The incident deescalated and all hazmat equipment was deconned and rehabbed. Command returned E2 to service.

E2 cleared the scene in service.

This report was written by Captain Mitchell Swann.

Last update on 01/26/2024 at 20:22:55 by MITCHELL SWANN

Narratives

Air Truck

The Air truck responded to fill bottles

Last update on 02/05/2024 at 13:38:47 by MICHAEL BAUER

Narratives

Hazmat Truck

On 1/26/24 Hazmat Truck Resounded to 7 Hospital Dr for a second alarm request. See Q9 narrative for Hazmat truck operations.

Last update on 01/26/2024 at 20:46:49 by DAVID W CUMMINS

Narratives

Marshal 2

CAD: 2024022969

Fire: 2401252

Date of Incident: 01/26/2024

Date of Report: 01/26/2024

Address: 7 Hospital Drive

On 01/26/2024, at approximately 1208 hours, Columbia Fire Department responded to 7 Hospital Drive, for a commercial structure fire.

I was on duty at the time of the incident and responded from the office, non-emergent. Upon arrival, I, Christopher Gilstrap, Marshal 2 (M2), made contact with the IC. The IC advised the fire had not been extinguished and it was not safe to enter. At approximately 1500 hours, I was advised the scene was now safe and would be able to respond in. I responded into the scene with Fire Marshal's; Steven Riggs, Colin Wright, Jason Thomas and Battalion Chief Michael Bauer.

I entered the building through the lower level and went to the elevator where I was taken to the 7th floor of the structure. After exiting the elevator, I was directed to the eastern most hallway. Marshal Riggs took evidentiary photos of the scene.

I observed a long hallway running east and west (Corridor M709). I observed a hallway about halfway down the east/west hallway which ran to the north. At the end of the east/west hallway I observed a laboratory to the south (Research Lab #1 M706). I observed the hallway ended in another laboratory on the east end (Shared Research Lab M708). I observed drop ceiling tiles on the floor throughout the hallway. I observed several knocked over cabinets and broken doors laying throughout the hallway floor as well. I observed the drop ceiling tiles down the north corridor (M727) had fallen to the floor. I observed the drop ceiling supports were twisted and some had fallen. Throughout M709 and M727 I observed smoke and fire damage above the drop ceiling line. I observed much of the duct work appeared to be charred.

Inside Research Lab #1, I located a panel directly inside the door which was charred. I observed a wooden cabinet which was also charred. I observed a pile of burnt debris on the floor near the panel and cabinet. I observed what appeared to be the remnants of dry chem from a fire extinguisher on the floor. Above the panel I observed square and round duct work which was charred. I also observed the ductwork to display patterns consistent with exposure to fire (typically a discoloration of the metal). I stood inside Research Lab #1 and faced north towards the doorway. I observed the smoke and burn patterns to extend east, but not to the west. I observed a melted liquid type material running out from one of the round ducts above the door. I observed the center of the east wall of the laboratory had failed and could see cinder block wall on the east side of the hole. I took evidentiary photos of the area.

I exited the laboratory back to Corridor M709. I walked to the east where I observed a doorway which had failed, which lead into Research Support (M707). I observed cinder blocks pieces on the floor as well as two large wooden doors which appeared to be broken into pieces on the floor Corridor M709 near the opening. I observed broken square ductwork laying in the Corridor M709.

I went through the failed doorway to the south and came to a room (Radioactive Core M707A) which was locked which had a vent on the lower portion of the door. A University of Missouri building representative was also in the area. I asked if they had a key to the room. He attempted several keys, which did not work. He then got a screw driver and removed the vent and vent cover from the lower portion of the door. Once removed, he used his foot to kick in the vent on the inside of the door. After kicking in the vent, he reached inside and opened the door from the inside. Inside the

room I observed minimal damage. I located what appeared to be a small laboratory with a desk, ventilation hood, microscope, table, oxygen tank, and clothes rack with white lab coats hanging on it (still in untouched plastic from what appeared to be a dry cleaner).

I exited M707A and observed the room directly to the east (M708A-3) to be made of drywall. I observed the drywall wall had failed and was leaning to the north. Later, I was able to access the room. Inside the room I located a large rack with several small mouse cages on it. The mice in the cages on the upper levels of the rack were deceased. The mice on the lower levels of the rack were moving around and appeared to be alive. I observed the upper ducts in the room to be heavily charred and covered in black soot. I did not observe signs of fire or smoke damage to any of the walls lower than the duct work. I could smell a strong odor of gas near this room.

I exited M708A-3 and back into the hallway (Vestibule MV708A1). The room (Microscopy Core M708A4) directly across was locked and no key could be found. I looked through the window on the door and observed a desk, with a microscope and chair inside. I observed the north wall of the room had failed. I observed cinder blocks which fell to the north and into the Shared Research Lab. I continued east and observed a large room (Surgery Core Lab M708A2) with several computers and microscopes directly to the east of M708A-3. I observed the covers on the microscopes had melted. I observed the contents of the room were strewn about the floor. I observed the eastern most wall had failed. I observed cinder blocks had fallen into another room to the north (Culture Core M708B2).

I continued east and into a large open room (Histology Core M708A) with; a hood, sink, and a yellow flammable contents cabinet. I observed the doors to the cabinet to be open and several brown colored bottles broken on the floor at its base.

I walked through M708A toward the north and observed the north wall had failed and cinder blocks had fallen to the north and into the Shared Research Lab. I went through the failed wall opening and then to the east where I located a door labeled "vestibule" (Lab M708B). I went through the door and located a door to Culture Core/M708B2). I located several cylindrical containers in the room. The labels stated they had oxygen and nitrogen in them.

I went back to room M708A-3 and observed the walls in that room, as well as the surrounding rooms had failed in an outward pattern from there. Based on that information I believe an explosion originated in room M708A-3.

As I was investigating, I was approached by a University employee (Casey Creason 8/6/79 573-864-8882) who stated he needed to show me something. He escorted me back to Culture Core (M708B2). He showed me a valve with a red handle and stated he had just turned the valve off. He stated it was a natural gas valve. He showed me gas piping (flex, mesh, and copper) laying on the floor. He stated he knew the piping was never left in the manner I observed it. He stated the valves were normally connected to something. He also stated it was unusual that it was left in the "on" position while not hooked to anything. I took evidentiary photos of the valve, the piping and the room.

I was notified that Marshal Colin Wright had made contact with two contractors who had been "brazing" copper pipe in Corridor M709, outside of Research Lab #1, prior to the fire. Marshal Wright stated he had taken their statements and had audio recorded one of the statements. Please review Marshal Wright's supplemental report for further.

After conducting my preliminary investigation and collecting evidentiary photos, I returned to quarters at approximately 1900 hours.

At approximately 2000 hours, I made phone contact with one of the contractors, Joseph Boyd (05/27/1970) by phone (573-489-3358). Boyd stated he had been brazing a copper "T" near the doorway to Research Lab #1. Boyd stated the copper pipe was very close to the metal duct above it. Boyd stated he had jammed a screw driver between the pipe and the duct and dented the duct up to create separation so he could continue his brazing. Boyd stated he and his coworker, Connor Wilson, smelled something burning. Boyd stated they observed the handle to the screw driver was melting. Boyd stated Wilson got a pair of pliers and removed the screw driver. Boyd stated they carried the screw driver into Shared Research Lab (M708) and cooled it off under water. Boyd stated as they walked back to their work area, they observed smoke and flame coming from the vents. Boyd stated they both grabbed fire extinguishers and went towards the smoke. Boyd stated it appeared the smoke and flame were coming from between the ducts where they joined together. Boyd stated they used their fire extinguishers but, due to the duct being sealed, there was no way to use the fire extinguisher directly on the fire. Boyd stated when they realized they could not put the fire out, they began evacuating people on the floor. Boyd stated they worked west down Corridor M709 and then north down the hallway (Corridor M727) attempting to get people out. Boyd stated Wilson was with him during the evacuation process. Boyd stated he moved to the sixth floor to help evacuate. I asked Boyd if he saw or felt the explosion. Boyd stated he felt the explosion. Boyd stated he was on the 7th floor, approximately 60 feet from where he had been working on the copper "T". Boyd stated he felt the force of the explosion hit him. Boyd stated all he could see was black smoke. Boyd stated he exited the building and went to the emergency room after the explosion.

At approximately 2015 hours, I made phone contact (573-808-2812) with the other contractor, Connor Wilson (11/10/1997). Wilson stated he had been working with Boyd on brazing copper pipe on the 7th floor. Wilson stated they were laying new pipe on the 7th floor to create a bypass in the system so each floor could operate and be shut off independently. Wilson stated at approximately 1145 he was near the doorway to the north hallway (Corridor M727) attempting to patch a leak in a separate new gas line. Wilson stated they had previously tested the gas line with compressed air and located two leaks; one where he was working, and one inside Research Lab #1. Wilson stated the gas line had not been hooked up to the natural gas "chase". Wilson stated the plan was to tie the new line into the "chase" next week once all the pipe was installed and pressure tested. Wilson stated Boyd had started brazing the

copper "T" outside the door to Research Lab #1 at about the same time as he was patching pipe near Corridor M727. Wilson stated at about noon they were heading to lunch. Wilson stated Boyd got down off the ladder when they smelled something burning. Wilson stated they observed the screw driver, Boyd had used, between the copper "T" and the duct, had begun melting at the handle. Wilson stated he observed the metal on the screw driver was very hot. Wilson stated they got the screw driver down and took it to the Shared Research Lab where they cooled it off with water. Wilson stated as they were walking back to their job carts he observed white smoke coming from the duct. Wilson stated he also saw a flame come from the joint between the ducts and extend approximately a foot downward. Wilson stated he and Boyd took their fire extinguishers and attempted to put out the fire by spraying the duct at the joint. Wilson stated there was no way to directly attack the fire as the duct was an enclosed space. Wilson stated he believed the fire originated in the duct and the insulation inside the duct was probably on fire. Wilson stated when they realized they could not put the fire out, they tried to pull the pull stations, but remembered the alarm had been shut off due to their brazing work. Wilson stated they began evacuating people from the west side of Corridor M709. Wilson stated after evacuating them he went down Corridor M727 and evacuated people. Wilson stated he went down the north stairwell (MU700) and down into the 6th floor laboratory where he worked to evacuate people. Wilson stated he was in the 6th floor laboratory when he heard the explosion. Wilson stated the explosion was "sudden and fast" and that he could hear it in the duct work. Wilson stated it caused dust to fall onto the second floor. Wilson stated he did not know where Boyd was at the time. Wilson stated Boyd told him later he had been on the 7th floor. Wilson stated after the explosion he continued down the 6th floor evacuating people. Wilson stated he went back up to the 7th floor from the double elevators with two River City employees (Shawn and Cooper), where they evacuated the rest of the west side of the 7th floor (Corridor M723). Wilson stated he then went back to the 5th floor where he got his lunchbox and coat and left the building. Wilson stated Boyd later told him he had gone with "Kent" or "Mike" and then to the Emergency Room. Wilson stated they had been using the black acetylene tank to braze the pipe and make repairs. In conclusion; after examining the scene, receiving information from the statements of the two contractors, and speaking to other Marshal's who had examined the scene, the fire and explosion was determined to be accidental. The following circumstances likely contributed to the incident;

Natural gas had been building up in the far eastern side of the 7th floor mostly in room M708A-3 and the adjoining rooms. The natural gas made its way into the ducts of the HVAC system and built up inside. During their brazing operations the heat in the duct work started the insulation on fire. The fire continued to extend until it met a pocket of built up natural gas which caused an explosion. The explosion burned up the remaining fuel and snuffed out the fire. During my investigation water pipe was located with what appeared to be branch lines, arm overs and joints for sprinkler heads. No sprinkler heads were located at the ends of any of the piping and the fittings were plugged and painted over.

Christopher M Gilstrap – Marshal 2
Columbia Fire Department

Last update on 01/30/2024 at 13:17:29 by Christopher Gilstrap

Narratives

Battalion Chief 4

See investigation report

Last update on 02/01/2024 at 16:38:09 by MICHAEL BAUER

Report Completion

Officer In Charge

METZ, JOHN

Rank FIRE DIVISION CHIEF

Member Completing Report

CARD, JOSHUA

Rank FIRE CAPTAIN

Signature

Date 02/14/2024


