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ambroz

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Document Order Summary

Transaction Date	Reference Number	Document Fee	Requester Name	Status
2016-01-11 16:52:06	01016165201-W	\$ 20.00	Thomas Gardner	New
Mailing Address		City	State	Zip
49 School St.		Stowe	VT	05672
Email Address		Telephone	Document Type	
tommy@stowereporter.com		802-253-2101	Report	

Incident Details

Police Case Number: 15A106480
 Incident Date:
 Parties Involved:
 Incident Type:
 Relationship to Case: Other - Newspaper reporter
 Reason for Request: Seeking names of people involved in the incident.

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01/14/2016
11:02

Vermont State Police, Headquarters
LAW Incident Table:

20329
Page: 1

Incident

Incident Number: 15A106480 Nature: Fire Invest.
Case Number: Image:
Address= 6992 MOUNTAIN RD
City: Stowe State: VT ZIP: 05672
Area: 0808 STOWE Contact: Scott Reeves

Complainant

Numbr:
Last: Fst: Mid:
DOB: SSN: Adr:
Race: Sx: Tel: Cty: ST: ZIP:

Details

Offense Codes: 0900 Reported: 0900 Observed: 4700
Circumstances: LT14 BM88
Rspndg Officers: Ambroz, Todd
Rspnsbl Officer: Ambroz, Todd Agency: SPA1 CAD Call ID: 5927871
Received By: Wright, Kristen Last RadLog: 08:02:11 12/30/2015 CMPLT
How Received: T Telephone Clearance: RFA Ready for Approval
When Reported: 07:47:02 12/24/2015 Disposition: COM Disp Date: 12/30/2015
Occurrd between: 14:45:00 12/23/2015 Judicial Sts: NCI Non-criminal Incident
and: 06:45:00 12/24/2015 Supervisor:
MO:

Narrative

Narrative:
Supplement: (See below) (See below)

INVOLVEMENTS:

Type	Record #	Date	Description	Relationship
NM	145221	12/30/2015	State of Vermont Forest & Park	Owner
NM	424059	12/28/2015	Schnee, John R	POI
NM	869538	12/28/2015	Jacobs, Aaron Michael	POI
NM	991224	12/28/2015	Arnot, Connor B	POI
NM	994350	12/28/2015	VanPatten, Kelsey	POI
NM	1459384	12/28/2015	Merson, Joshua D	POI
NM	238839	12/24/2015	Reeves, Scott J	POI
NM	794877	12/24/2015	Carpenter, Jake Burton	POI
NM	1062761	12/24/2015	Welch, Philip E Jr	POI
NM	1237983	12/24/2015	Carpenter, George Burton	POI
CA	5927871	12/24/2015	07:47 12/24/2015 Arson	*Initiating Call
PR	826690	12/24/2015	House ski lodge Stone \$75,000	Damaged

LAW Incident Offenses Detail:

Offense Codes

Seq Code	Amount
1 0900 ARSON	0.00

LAW Incident Circumstances:

Contributing Circumstances

Seq Code	Comments
1 LT14 Hotel/Motel/Etc.	
2 BM88 No Bias/Motivation	

LAW Incident Responders Detail

Responding Officers

Seq Name	Unit
1 Ambroz, Todd	290
2	

Main Radio Log Table:

Time/Date	Typ	Unit	Code	Zone	Agnc	Description
08:02:11 12/30/2015	1	290	CMPLT	SPA1	SPA1	incid#=15A106480 Completed cal
08:02:04 12/30/2015	1	290	ASSGN	SPA1	SPA1	incid#=15A106480 Assigned to a
09:06:49 12/28/2015	1	290	ARRVD	SPA1	SPA1	incid#=15A106480 Arrived on sc
08:01:27 12/28/2015	1	290	ENRT	SPA1	SPA1	incid#=15A106480 Enroute to a
11:58:45 12/24/2015	1	290	CMPLT	SPA1	SPA1	incid#=15A106480 Reassigned to
11:57:46 12/24/2015	1	290	ASSGN	SPA1	SPA1	incid#=15A106480 Assigned to a

Law Supplemental Narrative:

Seq Name	Date	Supplemental Narratives Narrative
2 Ambroz, Todd	15:42:25 12/30/2015	

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY-FIRE INVESTIGATION UNIT
FIRE INVESTIGATION REPORT

CASE #: 15A106480

REPORT AUTHOR: Detective Sergeant Todd Ambroz

DATE/TIME OF COMPLAINT: 12/24/15 11:20 AM.

DATE/TIME OF FIRE: 12/24/15 6:45 AM.

COMPLAINANT/FIRE CHIEF: Captain Scott Reeves DOB: [REDACTED]
Stowe Fire Department
134 Farr Hill Road
Stowe, VT 05672
802-279-1762

ADDRESS OF FIRE: Stowe Ski Resort, Stone Hut at top of Mount Mansfield
6992 Mountain Road
Stowe, VT 05672

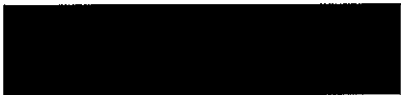
DISCOVERED BY: Lift Mechanic at the ski resort:
Phillip E. Welch Jr. DOB: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

OWNER/VICTIM: State of Vermont, Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation
POC: Michael Snyder
1 National Life Drive, Davis 2
Montpelier, VT 05620-3801
802-343-9746

MORTGAGE/FINANCIAL INSTITUTION: Owned by the State of Vermont

INSURANCE: State of Vermont. The adjuster, James White, works for:
Property Large Loss Organization
PO Box 8317
Chicago, IL 60680-8317
610-550-9796 (cell)
610-325-4269 (office)

TENANT/OCCUPANT: The person who was scheduled to rent the property for the week of December 22 through December 26 was: Jake Carpenter DOB: [REDACTED]



INSURANCE: NA

PROPERTY DAMAGED: The property is a stone cabin built in 1936 by the Civilian Conservation Corps as a warming hut. The building was converted to a sleeping cabin owned by the State of Vermont. The four stone walls, stone fireplace, and stone chimney are all still intact. The interior of the property, which had wooden floors, walls, rafters, ceiling, bunk beds, and a table and chairs, were all consumed in the fire. The "Stone Hut" is located at the top of the chair lift on top of Mount Mansfield at the ski resort in Stowe.

WEATHER/WIND CONDITIONS AT THE TIME OF THE FIRE: (<http://www.wunderground.com>) The weather at the time the fire was noticed on 12/24/15 between 6:30 and 7:00 AM was 48 degrees Fahrenheit, 8 MPH winds to the south, and overcast skies.

ALARM/SUPPRESSION SYSTEMS PRESENT: The Stone Hut was equipped with a fire extinguisher and combination smoke detector/CO2 detector.

LIST OF EVIDENCE/EXHIBITS: 41 digital images taken by Detective Sergeant Todd Ambroz.

DESCRIPTION OF SCENE: Upon arrival to the Stone Hut I observed all of the windows and the door had been boarded up with plywood to prevent anyone from entering the structure. I observed the roof to have a few spots of consumption near the A side center and another spot towards the chimney in the C side center.

ACTIONS TAKEN: On December 24, 2015 at 11:20 AM I received a call from State Police dispatch asking for me to contact the Lamoille County Sheriff's Department regarding a request for a fire investigator for a fire in Stowe. I was directed to call Stowe Fire Department Captain Scott Reeves who was incident commander for the fire. Captain Reeves told me there was a fire to the "Stone Hut" at the top of Mount Mansfield and the only way up was by chair lift or by snow groomer. Captain Reeves said the Stone Hut did not have anyone inside of it and the door was locked upon his arrival. He also advised there is no electricity or running water inside the one room building. The only possible source of ignition was the wood stove. I made arrangements to come to the mountain to begin my investigation, but Captain Reeves advised the winds were too high and he could not get me up by the chair lift and there was not enough snow for the snow-cat (groomer) to get me to the top. Due to it being Christmas Eve I made arrangements to head up the mountain on December 28, 2015 at noon. Division of Fire Safety Assistant Fire Marshal Stan Baranowski agreed to conduct the investigation with me.

On December 26, 2015 I received an email from Rockingham Dispatcher Brian Johnson. The email stated that George Carpenter DOB:  had called the Arson Tip line to report he was the one who had started the fire at the Stone Hut. The email said that George had "built the fire up really big" and burned

the place down. A phone number was attached to the email for George Carpenter. At 11:21 AM on 12/26/15 I called the phone number listed, [REDACTED], and left a message for Carpenter to call me back. I called and left another message on December 27, 2015 at 6:42 PM and asked for George Carpenter to call me.

On December 28, 2015 at 11:45 AM Assistant Fire Marshal Stan Baranowski and I met with Aaron Jacobs DOB: [REDACTED] at the Ski Dorm in Stowe. Jacobs works for the Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation and is the caretaker of the Stone Hut. Jacobs had helped secure the building by boarding up the windows and door to keep the building secure prior to our investigation. We traveled to the base lodge in Stowe and met with John Schnee, the director of facilities at Stowe Mountain Resort. Schnee is also the 2nd Assistant Fire Chief for the Stowe Fire Department and helped battle the fire on 12/24/15.

I learned from Schnee the fire at the Stone Hut was noticed about 7 AM on 12/24/15 by a lift mechanic, Philip Welch. The Stowe Fire Department worked on the fire until approximately 1:30 PM. They had to return to the fire at about 4 PM when the fire rekindled. They remained on scene until about 8:30 PM for the second fire. After completing the investigation of the Stone Hut we returned to the ski dorm where I called Jake Carpenter. I asked him to have his sons call me so I could complete my investigation. Jake Carpenter told me they were at the mountain and he would have them call me in a few minutes. I waited for approximately 90 minutes and then I called George Carpenter's cell phone asking him to call me back. I advised I was in Stowe and needed to speak to him and his brother. After I did not hear back from him I left the area.

On December 29, 2015 I was able to make contact with George Carpenter in the morning and made arrangements to speak to him and his brother at 3 PM at the ski dorm. Assistant Fire Marshal Stan Baranowski and I met George Carpenter and his brother, Timothy Carpenter and conducted an interview. Both young men were read the sworn statement audio recording face sheet and signed the document to allow the interview to be recorded.

George and Timothy stated they had gone up the mountain at the request of their father to take a cooler full of food supplies for a family friend who was going to spend the night. They arrived at the Stone Hut on 12/23/15 at 1:40 PM. Timothy stated he cleaned the ashes out of the wood stove and placed them in the metal trash can on the hearth. He left a few of the embers in the wood stove and was able to get the fire stoked again by 2:15 PM. George and Timothy had three friends help them carry in some wood from the outdoor wood shed. Kelsey VanPatten DOB: [REDACTED] Connor Arnot DOB: [REDACTED] and Josh Merson DOB: [REDACTED] They all were bringing wood inside the stone hut and placing it next to the wood stove. Timothy and George both said the wood was wet from the snow and they needed to dry it out. They stacked the wood to the left of the wood stove (on the B side of the hut) and actually laid some of the wet wood directly against the stove to get it to dry. A few of the pieces were placed at an angle where the tip of the wood was against the stove and made a "hissing" sound as the snow began to melt against it. The door to the wood stove was propped open slightly, approximately an inch and a half, so it could continue to draft and keep the fire going. A piece of wood was placed against the back of the metal wood stove door to keep the door from coming completely open. At 2:40 PM they all left the Stone Hut and went down the mountain. At about 8 PM they realized the friend who was going to stay at the Stone Hut had a change of plans and never made it there. They thought about climbing up the mountain but figured if there was a fire it had already happened and a climb up would have taken them 2 hours. They stated they never called anyone to let them know about the stove.

In the morning when they heard there was a fire at the Stone Hut they went to the mountain to see if they could help, but the staff at the resort told them it would be best if they just let the fire fighters handle it. George did not call anyone about the fire until December 26, 2015 at 10:50 AM because he thought nobody would be working on Christmas. George called the Vermont Arson Tip line and advised the dispatcher he was responsible for the fire at the Stone Hut. He left his contact information with the dispatcher who took the call.

EXTERIOR SCENE EXAMINATION: The exterior examination determined the fire was contained within the thick stone walls. I observed smoke deposits on the A side towards the top of the wall where the fire had vented. The roof appeared to have heavy damage in two spots, one towards the A side, and the other towards the C side. All of the windows were gone, but had been boarded up with plywood.

INTERIOR SCENE EXAMINATION: The interior examination revealed that almost all of the wood inside the building had been consumed. According to Schnee and Jacobs, the floor along the A side, right at the door to enter the building, was still intact after the first fire. Once the fire rekindled it consumed the remaining floor along the A side interior to include the wooden bunk beds. The wood floor was burned away, but the dirt sub-floor below it allowed us to search the debris for the wood stove and the steel plates that were beneath it. The chimney, metal stove pipe, and hearth were all intact and appeared to be undamaged. The wood stove, which had two of its front legs on the wood floor, had fallen into the debris below. The metal sides of the stove were still intact and I did not see any indication the walls on it had breached or failed. The front door to the stove had fallen off and was lying beneath the stove. I examined the door to see if it had failed or showed signs of damage. Both sides appeared to be undamaged. The walls had deep charring and consumption, mainly towards the C/D and D/C corners. Some of the walls along the A/B and A/D corners had consumption of the wood covering, but the studs behind them were still intact and had minor soot deposits and some charring. The wood rafters and the roof directly beneath the wood stove showed the most consumption and deep charring.

There were no electrical fixtures/outlets inside the building therefore electricity was not a factor.

ORIGIN: The area of origin for this fire is the left side of the wood stove where the wood was stacked directly against it.

CAUSE: The cause of this fire is due to wood being placed directly against the wood stove and the wood stove's door being left open for drafting. Once the wood against the left side of wood stove dried out it caught fire and caught the rest of the wood structure on fire as well.

CLASSIFICATION: This fire is classified as accidental.

We reserve the right to amend this finding should new information present itself in the future.

LIST OF PERSON INTERVIEWED:

George Carpenter DOB: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Timothy Carpenter DOB: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Aaron Jacobs DOB: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

SUMMARY OF THE INVESTIGATION: On December 24, 2015 at approximately 11:20 AM I was contacted for a fire investigation at the Stone Hut at Stowe Ski Resort in Stowe. Captain Scott Reeves had responded to a fire at the Stone Hut at the top of Mount Mansfield at about 7 AM. Due to the fact there were no witnesses, the door to the building was secure; and it was owned by the State of Vermont Forests, Parks, and Recreation, Captain Reeves felt he should notify a fire investigator. The investigation team responded to the scene on December 28, 2015 and conducted interviews with the two sons of the man who had rented it for the week, Jake Carpenter. His sons allowed a recorded interview to be conducted at the ski dorm in Stowe at 3 PM. The young men were very direct and forthcoming with what happened and how they stacked the wet wood directly against the wood stove. The door was propped open with a piece of wood against it in preparation for a family friend who was going to spend the night in the stone hut. The chair lift to the top of the mountain stops running at approximately 4 PM. The young men did not realize the Stone Hut was vacant until about 8 PM on the eve of 12/23/15. On the morning of 12/24/15 at 7 AM the fire was observed coming from the Stone Hut.

DATE/TIME REPORT COMPLETED: 12/30/15 3:50 PM.

This report is subject to editing up to the date of approval.

REVIEWED BY:

APPROVED BY/DATE-TIME: