

# Chicago Fire Department Incident Report

## Amendments

Amended By	16422 - BRODERSEN ERIC H. Battalion Chief	10/06/2020 18:14:24
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## Incident Reviewed By

Reviewer	16422 - BRODERSEN ERIC H. Battalion Chief
Date	10/06/2020

## Incident

Incident #	20-259-0025-00
Status	Closed
Incident Date/Time	09/15/2020 00:30:54
Incident Type	111 - Building fire
Box#	149943
Platoon	3
Address	400 E RANDOLPH ST
Apartment/Suite	3228
Ward	42
Shift	3
Alarms	0
District	E13
Action Taken1	81 - Incident command
Action Taken2	817 - Operated/Assigned as high-rise Still Chief, Lobby Command
Detector	2 - Detector did not alert occupants
Property Use	429 - Multifamily dwelling

## Resources

### Unit Responsible for Report: BC1

Unit Type	92 - Chief officer car
Action Taken1	817 - Operated/Assigned as high-rise Still Chief, Lobby Command
Dispatch Date/Time	09/15/2020 00:31:24
Enroute Date/Time	09/15/2020 00:32:59
Arrival Date/Time	09/15/2020 00:34:42
Unit Report By	16422

<b>Persons Involved</b>	
Name	John Doe
Involvement	Person / Business that OCCUPIES area where incident occurred
Name	Jane DOE
Involvement	Person / Business that OCCUPIES area where incident occurred
Residential Units	1
Buildings Involved	1
On Site Material	None
Area Of Origin	14 - Common room, den, family room, living room, lounge
Heat Source	UU - Undetermined
Item First Ignited	UU - Undetermined
Cause of Ignition	5 - Cause under investigation
Factor Contributing To Ignition1	30 - Electrical failure, malfunction, other
Human Factor	None
Suppression Factor1	623 - Physically disabled occupants
Suppression Factor2	622 - Elderly occupants
Equipment Involved Type	UUU - Undetermined
Equipment Involved Power	12 - Batteries and low voltage (< 50 volts)
Equipment Involved Portability	1 - Portable
Mobile Property Involved	None
<b>Structure</b>	
Structure Type	1 - Enclosed building
Building Status	2 - In normal use
Floors Above Grade	40
Floors Belows Grade	2
Building Length	255
Building Width	337
Story of Fire Origin	32
Fire Spread	3 - Confined to floor of origin
Flame Spread Item	99 - Multiple items first ignited
Construction Class	2 - Gypsum Roofing
Roof Covering	1 - Tile (Clay, cement, slate, etc.)
Detector Presence	U - Undetermined
AES Presence	N - None Present



# Chicago Fire Department Office of Fire Investigations

53 E. Pershing Road.  
Chicago, Illinois 60653

Phone: (312) 747-5017  
Facsimile: (312) 747-1967

## Cause: Accidental

OFI Case #: 20-1130

Fire Marshal: Reilly/Brown

OEMC Event#: 202590025

Platoon: 3

Primary Address or Location: 400 E. Randolph St.

Secondary Address or Location: N/A

Battalion #: 1

Name: Brodersen

File Number: [REDACTED]

Date of Incident: 9/15/2020

Time OFI Notified: 0045

Time of Alarm: 0034

CPD RD #: JD 367571

Type of Alarm: 211

CPD Patrol Officer: Ortiz

Box #: 149943

Beat #: 112

Star #: 17872

Occupancy: High Rise Residential/A203R

Second Code: NA

If Commercial: N/A

### Weather Conditions:

Temperature: 64 Deg.

Wind Direction: Southwest

Wind Speed: 5 M.P.H.

Lighting: Artificial

Humidity: 81 %

### Owner/Occupant Data:

Owners Name: Patricia B. Tenske

Insurance Co. Unknown

Address: 400 E. Randolph St., #3228

Occupant Name: Owner-occupied

Insurance Co. Unknown

### Origin and Cause Data:

Room/s: 114

Floor/s: 32

Heat Source: 210

Apartment/s: 3228

Material Ignited: 300

Odors Noted: No

Form of Material: 400

Multiple Origins: No

### Miscellaneous Data:

Injuries: 3 Fatalities: 0

Juvenile: No

Smoke Detectors: Present

### Brief Narrative: (Origin, Cause & Extension)

The fire originated in the living room, and was caused by heat from powered equipment igniting the components of an electric scooter. There was no fire extension beyond the area of origin. There was heat and smoke extension thru-out the subject apartment.

## Fire Department Data

### Still Alarm Companies

Engine: 13                      Truck/Tower: 6                      Squad: 1  
Engine: 42                      Truck/Tower: 3

### Other Fire/EMS Units at Scene: (List All Fire Department Units on Scene)

E98, A11, BC3, BC4, BC18, E1, E5, E14, E18, E4, AT1, T2, T19, TL10, A74, A41, A28, A66, BC17, BC12, 221, E103, E30, E19, E76, T4, T7, TL5, SQD2, A45, A43, A35, A19, BC15, 451, 457, 645, 639, 2132, 4110, 515, 467, 466, 463.

### Incident Commander Interview:

B/C Brodersen, File [REDACTED], Battalion 1, 3/A, related in essence that upon arrival of suppression companies, neither smoke nor fire were emanating from the structure. B/C Brodersen further related that E13 employed hand lines to extinguish a fire in the living room of Unit #3228. He added that Truck 20 employed forcible entry to the bedroom door of the unit, the fire did not extend to other structures, and smoke detectors were present and in audible alarm. B/C Brodersen added that the residents of the unit self-evacuated and were lead out of the structure by members of suppression companies. Three residents of the structure were injured and transported by EMS (see "Injury Data," p. 5).

### Still Alarm Companies Interviews:

#### Engine Officer:

Capt. Dilger, File [REDACTED] Engine 13, 3/A, related in essence that upon arrival of suppression companies, neither smoke nor fire were emanating from the structure. Cpt. Dilger further related that E13 employed hand lines to extinguish a fire in the living room of Unit #3228.

#### Truck Officer:

Lt. Jones, File [REDACTED] Truck 6, 3/E, related in essence that upon arrival of suppression companies, neither smoke nor fire were emanating from the structure. Lt. Jones added that Truck 6 employed forcible entry to the bedroom door of Unit #3228.

#### Method of Entry: (Explain)

Lt. Jones, File [REDACTED] Truck 6, 3/E, employed forcible entry to the bedroom door of Unite #3228.

### Location and Type of Work Performed by Still Alarm Companies:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Primary Search	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Suppression	<input type="checkbox"/> Haz-Material
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Secondary Search	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ventilation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ems
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Final Search	<input type="checkbox"/> Rescue	

### Rescue Data:

No rescues made (residents self-evacuated).

## Building/Structure Data

### Ownership/Corporate and Insurance Data:

The building is managed by the 400 Condo Association and overseen by an off-site manager, [REDACTED] DOB [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Alliance Insurance.

The unit is owner-occupied (see below).

**Occupant/s and Insurance Data:**

Patricia B. Tenske (owner), DOB [REDACTED]  
James M. Madigan, Sr. (owner), DOB [REDACTED]  
Insurance unknown.

**Physical Description of Structure:**

Residential high rise, 43-story fire resistant with basements. Approximate exterior dimensions: 100'x200'. A203R

**Exterior Examination of Structure:**

Exterior examination of this structure disclosed that this fire did not originate on the exterior. The structure receives electric service via underground lines.

**Fire Extension to Other Structures:**

This fire did not extend to other structures.

**Previous Fire History:** (Master Journal)

A review of the OFI Master Journal discovered two (2) previous fire investigations at 400 E. Randolph St., and zero (0) previous fire investigations elsewhere on the 400 East Block of Randolph St.

OFI Case Numbers: 12-0864, 18-0200.

**Smoke Detector Data:**

Present.

**Code Violations:**

None noted.

**Fire Detection/Protection Systems Data:**

- Sprinklers
- Standpipe
- Heat Detector
- Fire Escapes
- Security Service
- Automatic Fire Alarm
- Automatic Burglar Alarm
- Smoke Towers
- None
- Other

**Heating System Inspection Data:**

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <b>Type:</b>                               | <b>Fuel:</b>                                       | <b>System:</b>                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Furnace           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Natural Gas    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Central    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Boiler | <input type="checkbox"/> Electric                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forced Air |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wall Heater       | <input type="checkbox"/> Propane                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Space Heater      | <input type="checkbox"/> Kerosene                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Radiant               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> People Heater     |  | <input type="checkbox"/> Hot Air               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> None              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None in Origin |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain)   |  |  |

**Factor in this Fire/Explosion:**

- Yes (Explain)
- No

**Air Conditioning Data:** Central air conditioning.

**Factor in this Fire/Explosion:**

- Yes (Explain)
- No



██████████ related that the building has smoke towers, despite information to the contrary indicated on the run sheet.

Lt. Dyer, Squad 1, File ██████████ 3/E, related in essence that upon arrival of Sqd 1, "the entire apartment" seemed to be on fire.

**Area/s of Origin:** Living room

**Approximate Location of Origin:** Within three (3) feet of the south wall, six (6) feet of the west wall, and eight (8) feet of the north wall.

**Injury Data:** Three (3) injuries:

Male, 87, red, transported to Northwestern by A11.

Female, 70, red, transported to Northwestern via A66.

Male, 76, yellow, transported to Northwestern by A42.

**Fatality Data:** No fatalities reported.

**Photographer:** FM Reilly

**Other Agencies on the Scene:** CPD

**Person/s Wanted for Questioning:** Nobody at this time.

**Recommendations:** The R/FM recommends that an electrical and/or mechanical engineer conduct an examination of the artifacts in the area of origin in any manner deemed necessary or pertinent.

**Notification Data:** Upon arrival, the R/FM notified CPD P/O Ortiz, Beat #112, Star #17872, that this fire scene is a potential crime scene and that their continual presence is required.

On scene at approximately 0420 hrs, the R/FM shared findings with Area 3 Det. Perricone, Beat 5328, Star 21169.

**Summary and Conclusions:**

CFD was called to a fire at 400 E. Randolph St., with E13 employing hand lines to extinguish a fire in the living room of Unit #3228. BN1 called for OFI, and 467 did the subsequent investigation. 467 did confirm that this fire originated inside the living room and was caused by heat from powered equipment igniting the components of a electric scooter.

Specific evidence to support this determination are the burn patterns/remains indicative of the origin, flame spread, and travel; photos; interviews; remains of damaged lithium-ion battery packs indicating severe thermal damage, systematic elimination of all logical ignition sources at the origin; and the elimination of all natural, incendiary, and other causal factors.

In conclusion, after a thorough fire scene examination, with the elimination of all logical ignition sources at the origin, and eliminating all natural and incendiary causal factors, it is the opinion of the R/FM that the fire was the result of heat from powered equipment in the form of a battery powered motorized scooter igniting adjacent combustibles in the living room of Unit #3228.

**Fire Scene Remanded to:** CPD Beat #112

**Fire Marshal/s:**

**Name:** Ryan R. Reilly

**Rank:** FM **Badge:** 10

**Review and Approval:**

RR/KS

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**Ryan Rivera**  
**Commanding Fire Marshal**

**Date:** 9/15/2020

This report was prepared considering information available at the time its completion. The Chicago Fire Department's Office of Fire Investigation reserves the right to amend this report if additional information becomes available.  
(Revised 3/1/16)