



Massachusetts State Police
FIRE INVESTIGATION REPORT 2020-117-577

Report Date: 11/18/2020

Primary Information

Dissemination Code:	report respect the security of its associated case
Reporting LEO:	Quigley, Daniel B (MSP3864 / Fire Investigation West Team / Massachusetts State Police)
Report Status:	Approved
Report Status Date:	02/05/2021
Approved By:	Mazza, Michael (msp1464 / Massachusetts State Police)
Discovered/Reported:	Public Safety
Requester:	MIKANIEWICZ, PAUL A
Cause Of Fire:	Undetermined
COF Subcategory:	Undetermined
Injuries/Fatalities:	None
K9:	NO

Property Information

Property Description:	358 George Carter Road, Becket
Property Use:	Commercial
Mobile:	NO
Single/Multi Story:	Multi-Story
Smoke Detectors:	UNKNOWN
Heat Detectors:	NO
Sprinklers:	Yes-Inoperable
CO:	UNKNOWN
Occupied:	NO
Abandoned:	NO
Estimated Value:	\$3,000,000.00
Estimated Loss:	\$3,000,000.00
Type Of Insurance:	Commercial
State Property:	No

Insurance Information

Insured:	Jacobs Pillow Theatre Group
Insurance Company:	ARBELLA, INC.
Insurance Agent:	Toole Insurance

Synopsis

1. On Tuesday November 17, 2020 approximately 0800 hours Troopers assigned to the Fire and Explosion Investigative Unit, West team were advised of a structure fire in the town of Becket. Chief Cahalaine of Dalton Fire Department requested our response regarding a structure fire located at 358 George Carter Road, Becket. The structure involved is the Doris Duke Theatre within the Jacobs Pillow Theatre grounds.

2. Approximately 0930 hours Tpr. Fortier and myself Tpr. Quigley arrived onscene and met Chief Mikaniewicz of Becket Fire Department. It was explained that the fire was first reported at approximately 0650 hours by [REDACTED]



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Synopsis - Continued

■ upon arriving to the grounds. ■ could hear the fire and walked down towards the Doris Duke Theatre and observed large flames coming from the CD side of the theatre. He immediately called 911 and awaited first responders. ■ captured video of the fire and provided such to investigators.

3. At approximately 0700 hours, the first fire fighters arrived on scene including Deputy Chief Kristoper Massini of Becket Fire Department. He described the fire as heavily engulfed along the right side of the building (C and D side) with heavy flames coming from the dormers. Deputy Chief Massini was able to provide investigators with initial first responder photos of the theatre. Deputy Chief Massini told investigators he along with other fire fighters began to set up their apparatus to extinguish the fire. They attempted to hook up to a on site fire hydrant for water supply. They discovered that fire hydrant was not flowing water and the pump to the hydrant appeared inoperable. It was later learned that this same pump, supplies water to the Doris Duke Theatre's sprinkler system which was disabled and inoperable. Thus water had to be shuttled to the scene in order to suppress the fire.

4. Investigators observed catastrophic damage, a total loss of the structure. Firefighters continued with overhaul operations as hot spots and smoldering debris remained. The only remnants of the structure was the A side corner exterior walls. Under the direction of Chief Mikaniewicz an excavator was brought to the scene in order to eliminate hot spots and smoldering. Investigators advised the excavator operator to attempt to preserve as much as the building as possible to aid in scene examination.

5. The Doris Duke Theatre has a sprinkler suppression system. This system was determined to be off line at the time of the fire. The system is serviced by Hampshire Fire Protection of Westfield, MA and monitored by Lee Audio N' Security. The last time the sprinklers were serviced was on 7/13/2020 in which the system was inspected and tested with a positive result. It was discovered that the Fire Alarm system failed to receive a signal starting 10/31/2020. At which time Lee Audio N' Security alerted facilities contact and ■ who instructed Lee Audio N' Security to ignore the fault. This fault was ignored up until the date of incident 11/17/2020. Further investigation to why this was ignored will be conducted.

6. As to why the water pump system was inoperable remains under investigation. ■ advised he was unsure why the pump did not start at the time of the incident. Hampshire Fire Protection was able to inspect the water pump and it was tested with positive result. Numerous tests were conducted with normal operation. The controller panel that records all activity and faults with the pump is to be reviewed by Hampshire Fire Protection with the results to be shared with fire investigators as soon as they are available.

7. ■ personnel informed investigators that four dancers used the facility the night prior on 11/16/2020. These performers were the last to use and exit the building prior to the incident. All four were interviewed. Each stated that all entry and exit procedures were followed which included turning off all lights and sound equipment. No one noticed any abnormalities including odd smells, buzzing sounds, or other issues. The artists left the theatre at approximately 2300-2320 hours and walked to their dormitory. Two of the artists identified as ■ stated they are smokers. Both stated they did not smoke inside or outside of the theatre. They remember smoking while walking back to the dormitory from the theatre. Both deny smoking outside near the theatre.

8. This fire remains under investigation. The fire origin and cause is undetermined at this time. A follow up investigation into the fire alarm system and sprinkler system faults is ongoing. Further testing into the cause of the water pump fault will be conducted in the following days. Daniel Slowick of Northeast Fire Investigations has been assigned by the Arbella Insurance Company to investigate the fire. Mr. Slowick will provide any assistance and documents requested by investigators to aid in the investigation.

9. Pat Scanlon of the Department of Fire Services deployed a drone to document the scene and provide aerial photos. This is an ongoing investigation and remains open.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tpr. Daniel Quigley #3864
Massachusetts State Police

Address #1 - OFFENSE LOCATION #1 - 358 George Carter Rd

Primary Information

Address: 358 George Carter Rd, BECKET, MASSACHUSETTS 01223 UNITED STATES



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Subject #1 - VICTIM #1 - Pietrantone, AJ

Primary Information

Subject Name: **Pietrantone, AJ**
Record Type: **PERSON**
Bio: **UNKNOWN, MALE**
Juvenile: **NO**

Relationship Information

Victim Type: **BUSINESS**

Employment Information

Occupation: **Deputy Director Jacobs Dance F**

Telephones / E-Addresses

Relationship	Number/E-Address
USER	[REDACTED] (PHONE - CELLULAR)

Subject #2 - WITNESS #1 - [REDACTED]

Primary Information

Subject Name: **[REDACTED]**
Record Type: **PERSON**
Bio: **[REDACTED]**
Birth Date: **[REDACTED]**
Juvenile: **[REDACTED]**

Relationship Information

Extent Of Injury: **[REDACTED]**

Personal Information

Height: **[REDACTED]**

Addresses

Relationship	Address
MAILING ADDRESS	[REDACTED]

Telephones / E-Addresses

Relationship	Number/E-Address
ASSOCIATED	[REDACTED]

Subject #3 - WITNESS #2 - [REDACTED]

Primary Information

Subject Name: **[REDACTED]**
Record Type: **PERSON**
Bio: **[REDACTED] yr. old**
Birth Date: **[REDACTED]**
Juvenile: **[REDACTED]**



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Subject #3 - WITNESS #2 - [REDACTED] - Continued

Relationship Information

Extent Of Injury: [REDACTED]

Subject #4 - WITNESS #3 - [REDACTED]

Primary Information

Subject Name: [REDACTED]

Record Type: **PERSON**

Bio: [REDACTED]

Birth Date: [REDACTED]

Juvenile: [REDACTED]

Personal Information

Height: [REDACTED]

Addresses

Relationship

Address

MAILING ADDRESS

[REDACTED]

Telephones / E-Addresses

Relationship

Number/E-Address

SUBSCRIBER

[REDACTED]

Subject #5 - WITNESS #4 - [REDACTED]

Primary Information

Subject Name: [REDACTED]

Record Type: **PERSON**

Bio: [REDACTED]

Birth Date: [REDACTED]

Juvenile: [REDACTED]

Relationship Information

Extent Of Injury: [REDACTED]

Employment Information

Occupation: [REDACTED]

Subject #6 - WITNESS #5 - [REDACTED]

Primary Information

Subject Name: [REDACTED]

Record Type: **PERSON**

Bio: [REDACTED]

Birth Date: [REDACTED]

Juvenile: [REDACTED]



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Subject #6 - WITNESS #5 - [REDACTED] - Continued

Relationship Information

Extent Of Injury: [REDACTED]

Personal Information

Height: [REDACTED]

Addresses

Relationship Address

MAILING ADDRESS

[REDACTED]

Telephones / E-Addresses

Relationship Number/E-Address

ASSOCIATED

[REDACTED]

Subject #7 - INTERVIEWEE #1 - [REDACTED]

Primary Information

Subject Name: [REDACTED]

Record Type: **PERSON**

Bio: [REDACTED]

Birth Date: [REDACTED]

Juvenile: [REDACTED]

Relationship Information

Extent Of Injury: [REDACTED]

Telephones / E-Addresses

Relationship Number/E-Address

USER

[REDACTED]

Subject #8 - INTERVIEWEE #2 - [REDACTED]

Primary Information

Subject Name: [REDACTED]

Record Type: **PERSON**

Bio: [REDACTED]

Birth Date: [REDACTED]

Juvenile: [REDACTED]

Relationship Information

Extent Of Injury: [REDACTED]

Telephones / E-Addresses

Relationship Number/E-Address

USER

[REDACTED]



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Subject #9 - INTERVIEWEE #3 - [REDACTED]

Primary Information

Subject Name: [REDACTED]
Record Type: **PERSON**
Bio: [REDACTED]
Birth Date: [REDACTED]
Juvenile: [REDACTED]

Relationship Information

Extent Of Injury: [REDACTED]

Telephones / E-Addresses

Relationship	Number/E-Address
USER	[REDACTED]

Subject #10 - INTERVIEWEE #4 - [REDACTED]

Primary Information

Subject Name: [REDACTED]
Record Type: **PERSON**
Bio: [REDACTED]
Birth Date: [REDACTED]
Juvenile: [REDACTED]

Relationship Information

Extent Of Injury: [REDACTED]

Telephones / E-Addresses

Relationship	Number/E-Address
USER	[REDACTED]

Officers

LEO
Clayton, Patrick (msp3768 / Fire Investigation West Team / Massachusetts State Police)