South Carolina Law Enforcement Division

Origin and Cause Report

June 6, 2026

TO: File 2026-02490

FROM: Special Agent A. H. Crouch
IFSAC-FI, IAAI-FIT

RE: Fire Investigation
Long, James (Victim)
Long, Kristi (Victim)

COUNTY: Greenwood

Synopsis of Incident

On April 24, 2026, Greenwood Fire Department (GFD) and Greenwood Police Department (GPD) responded to a structure fire at 120 Elliott Street in Greenwood, South Carolina. According to the GFD incident report **(Attachment 1)**, GFD was dispatched at 12:58 AM and arrived on scene at 1:02 AM. Upon arrival, firefighters observed fire on the front left side of the structure that had burned away the plastic vinyl siding, exposing the wooden ship lap siding underneath. Fire extended from the bottom of the structure to the top gable. Fire was venting out of the left side double doors. After the fire was extinguished, GFD Fire Chief Tanner Hall determined an investigation was warranted and turned the scene over to GPD. GPD Chief TJ Chaudoin contacted the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) Arson Investigation Unit and requested assistance with determining the origin and cause of the fire. Pursuant to the request, Special Agent Adam Crouch was assigned as the case agent. Senior Special Agent (S/SA) Brandon Steen, along with Ignitable Liquid Detection Canine (ILDC) "Diesel", and Special Agent Steven Mullinax, also responded to assist with the scene examination. Agent Crouch arrived on scene at approximately 7:40 AM and met with GFD Fire Chief T. Hall. Prior to any scene examination, GPD Investigator Michael McNeese obtained a search warrant **(Attachment 2)** for the premises. Agent Crouch later obtained the GPD incident report **(Attachment 3)**.

According to www.wunderground.com, **(Attachment 4)**, the weather conditions in Greenwood, South Carolina around the approximate time of the fire were as follows (Table 1):

Time	Temperature	Dew Point	Humidity	Wind	Speed	Gust	Pressure	Precip. Rate.	Precip. Accum.	UV	Solar
12:29 AM	63.9 °F	47.1 °F	54 %	NW	0.2 mph	1.3 mph	29.29 in	0.00 in	0.00 in	0	0 w/m²
12:34 AM	63.9 °F	47.0 °F	54 %	NW	0.4 mph	0.9 mph	29.29 in	0.00 in	0.00 in	0	0 w/m²
12:39 AM	64.0 °F	46.8 °F	54 %	NW	0.1 mph	1.1 mph	29.29 in	0.00 in	0.00 in	0	0 w/m²
12:44 AM	64.0 °F	47.2 °F	54 %	NW	0.0 mph	0.7 mph	29.29 in	0.00 in	0.00 in	0	0 w/m²
12:49 AM	63.8 °F	47.6 °F	56 %	NW	0.0 mph	0.7 mph	29.29 in	0.00 in	0.00 in	0	0 w/m²
12:54 AM	63.3 °F	47.7 °F	57 %	NW	0.2 mph	0.2 mph	29.29 in	0.00 in	0.00 in	0	0 w/m²
12:59 AM	63.1 °F	48.1 °F	58 %	NW	0.1 mph	0.9 mph	29.29 in	0.00 in	0.00 in	0	0 w/m²

Table 1: Weather Conditions

Based on the scene examination and witness statements, it was the opinion of Agent Crouch that the fire originated in, at or around the front-left wall of the home office. The cause of the fire was classified as undetermined.

Scene Examination

The fire scene consisted of a two-story wood framed structure, built atop a crawlspace *(Figures 1 and 2)*. The exterior was covered with white vinyl siding. The roof was a cross hipped roof covered with asphalt style shingles. Electrical service was supplied to the structure via an overhead service drop to a meter base assembly, affixed to the right-side exterior wall. From the meter base assembly, electricity was supplied to a breaker-type distribution panel, affixed to an interior cabinet wall in the kitchen. Gas service was supplied via a gas meter on the right side. Gas authorities had removed the gas meter prior to Agent Crouch's arrival.

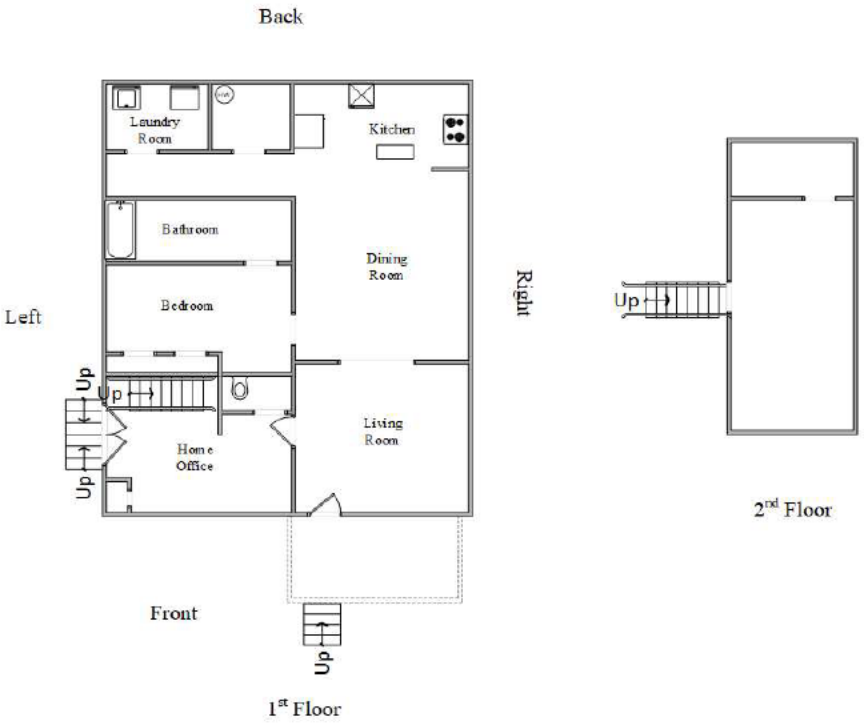


Figure 1: Fire Scene Diagram



Figure 2: Fire Scene (U-Shaped Fire Pattern Indicated by Yellow "U")

Exterior Examination – Agent Crouch conducted and examination of the exterior that began at the front and systematically moved in a clockwise manner *(Figure 3)*. The front displayed severe fire damage in the form of melted vinyl siding, charring, and mass loss of the wooden ship lap siding, exposing the wooden structural members resulting in a distinct "U-Shaped" pattern *(see Figure 2)*. The aforementioned fire damage extended from ground level to the roof, exposing the interior, which caused fire to propagate into the second-floor interior. Agent Crouch ascertained that there had been a window on the front wall that had been completely consumed. The left side displayed fire ventilation patterns above the double doors in the form of melted vinyl siding, melted vinyl soffit, and charring. The left-rear roof had collapsed and was partially consumed during the fire. The back side displayed minor amounts of smoke and soot deposition near the vinyl soffit. The right side displayed minor amounts of smoke and soot deposition near the vinyl soffit and above the front window. Agents layered away fire debris from the front-left of the structure down to ground level and found the remnants of a raised flower bed. *Agent's Note: Agent Crouch obtained a pre-fire photograph from Greenwood Fire Chief Tanner Hall that displayed a raised flower bed just below the front left window (Figure 4).* S/SA B. Steen utilized ILDC "Diesel" to search the area. According to the ILDC report **(Attachment 5)**, ILDC Diesel did not exhibit any untrained behavior changes consistent with target odor in area searched.



Figure 3: Fire Scene

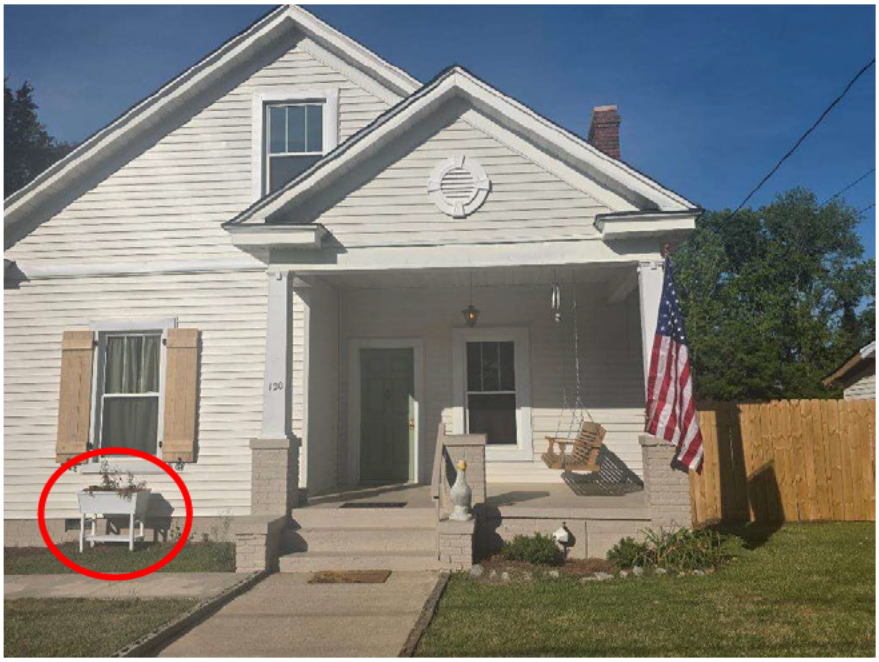


Figure 4: Pre-Fire Photograph (Courtesy of GFD Fire Chief Tanner Hall)(Red Circle Denotes the Raised Flower Bed Below the Window)

Interior Examination – Agent Crouch made entry into the structure via the front door and conducted an examination of the interior that began in the living room and moved in a clockwise manner. Agent Crouch observed a distinct line of demarcation in the living room that extended downward from the ceiling level approximately six (6) feet. Firefighters had pulled down nearly all ceiling coverings throughout the first floor during firefighting operations. Agent Crouch observed fire movement and intensity patterns around the doorway to the front left room which was identified as the home office *(Figure 5)*. The home office displayed fire damage to all exposed surfaces indicating flashover[1] had occurred. The front wall had been consumed by fire leaving only the charred wooden studs. A portion of the floor in the center of the room had been consumed by fire. Agents layered away fire debris from the home office of the structure down to floor level *(Figure 6)*. S/SA B. Steen utilized ILDC "Diesel" to search the room. According to the ILDC

[1] According to NFPA 921, 2024 Edition, **3.3.96 Flashover.** A transition phase in the development of a compartment fire in which surfaces exposed to thermal radiation reach ignition temperature more or less simultaneously and, given sufficient availability of oxygen, fire spreads rapidly throughout the space, resulting in full room involvement or total involvement of the compartment or enclosed space.

report **(Attachment 5)**, ILDC Diesel did not exhibit any untrained behavior changes consistent with target odor in area searched. The small half bathroom underneath the stairwell displayed a line of demarcation and included fire damage in the form of charring, mass loss and melted plastic of the shower. The remainder of the rooms on the first floor displayed varying degrees of smoke and soot deposition that decreased as distance from the home office increased. Agent Crouch continued the interior examination moving to the second floor. Structural members including joists and rafters displayed significant fire damage in the form of charring and mass loss. Several joists displayed saddle burns[2], consistent with intense heat and fire exposure from above. These observations coincided with the exterior observations.



Figure 5: Home Office Doorway (Fire Movement Patterns Indicated by Red Arrows)

[2] According to NFPA 921, 2024 Edition, **Saddle Burns.**
Saddle burns are distinctive U- or saddle-shaped patterns that are sometimes found on the top edges of floor joists. They are caused by fire burning downward through the floor above the affected joist. Saddle burns display deep charring, and the fire patterns are highly localized and gently curved. They also may be created by radiant heat from a burning material in close proximity to the floor, including materials that may melt and burn on the floor (e.g., polyurethane foam). Ventilation caused by floor openings may also contribute to the development of these patterns



Figure 6: Home Office

Evidence Collected

Scene Sketch/Scene Diagram – Agent Steen/Agent Crouch **(Attachment 6)**

Scene Photographs – Agent Crouch **(Attachment 7)**

Body Worn Camera (BWC) Interviews – (Attachment 8)

Witness Statements

Agent's Note: All interviews are summarized herein and are not intended to be a verbatim account, and do not memorialize all statements made during the interview. Refer to the body worn camera interview videos for the complete interview.

James Long – Homeowner – (Attachment 8) J. Long and his wife Kristi Long had purchased 120 Elliott Street in the Greenwood city limits on March 10, 2026, and were in the process of moving in. The house has been through two (2) inspections prior to purchase. They had been there the night of the fire until approximately 9:20 PM, when they returned to their home address of [redacted] in Greenwood, South Carolina. J. Long doesn't smoke in the house but does

outside. *Agent's Note: Agent Crouch did not locate any discarded smoking materials within the area of origin.*

Kristi Long – Homeowner – (Attachment 8) K. Long had stayed at 120 Elliott Street from early afternoon until around 9:20 PM when J. Long came back from a meeting. Both K. Long and J. Long were going to stay there that night, but K. Long did not have the essentials that she needed so they decided to leave and go to their home at [redacted]

Leslie Corley – 911 Caller – (Attachment 8) L. Corley was walking with her friend on Stanley Avenue, adjacent to Elliott Street, when she began smelling smoke. As they approached the apartment complex, she saw fire through the trees and called 911.

Ashley Hardeman – 911 Caller – (Attachment 8) A. Hardeman was in the area, dropping off a friend. As she approached Elliott Street, she could see fire above the tree line. She looked down Elliott Street and saw a house on fire. She drove towards the fire and called 911. She told the 911 operator that she did not see anyone there. A. Hardeman saw fire at the front of the house and indicated that fire had not reached the roof yet. She also observed the vinyl siding melting and falling off of the house during her 911 call.

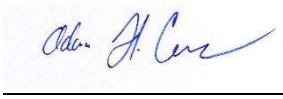
Russell Cline – Battalion Chief – (Attachment 8) R. Cline observed fire at the front left side of the structure extending from ground level to the roof and had made it into the attic space. The room on the left front had fire venting out of the left side double doors.

Other Information

On May 18, 2026, Agent Crouch submitted an Arson Immunity Act letter **(Attachment 9)** to SC Farm Bureau. On June 29, 2026, Agent Crouch received a compilation of files from SC Farm Bureau related to the claim, policy, and fire investigation **(Attachment 10)**. The contracted fire investigator for SC Farm Bureau, John Byers, opined that the fire originated "on the west side of the front northwest corner office" and the cause was listed as "undetermined".

Conclusion

Based on the scene examination and witness statements, Agent Crouch determined the fire originated in, at or around the front-left wall of the home office. Agent Crouch identified but was unable to eliminate accidental or intentional acts of human intervention. The cause of the fire was classified as undetermined. This opinion was in consideration of all available information at the time of the scene examination and subsequent investigation by the SLED Arson Investigation Unit and the Greenwood Police Department. The Greenwood Police Department requested an origin and cause investigation only.



Special Agent A. H. Crouch
IFSAC – FI, IAAI-FIT

Attachments

1. GFD Incident and CAD Report
2. Search Warrant
3. GPD Incident Report
4. Weather Report
5. ILDC Report
6. Scene Sketch/Scene Diagram
7. Scene Photographs
8. BWC Interviews
9. Arson Immunity Letter
10. Arson Immunity Information

Agent's Case Management History maintained in the case file.