Minnesota State Fire Marshal Division

INVESTIGATION NARRATIVE

Incident Type: Structure Fire
Incident Address: 822 Fox Point Lane SW, Rochester, MN 55902
SFM Case Number: SFM2026-0020-0

Investigation Title: Dison Residence Fire-Rochester

This report relates to and is a compilation of information and efforts described and performed during this investigation. This report and examination are also a reflection of my training, education, and experience. A systematic approach was used to compile factual data and to analyze the facts to establish the area of origin(s) and then to investigate the cause, circumstances, conditions, or agencies that brought the ignition source, fuel, and oxygen together. The Scientific Method was utilized during this investigation as recommended by the 2024 Edition of NFPA 921, Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations.

Nature of Incident/incident overview:

A fire occurred in a single-story residential structure. Two adult males were removed from the structure and subsequently pronounced deceased at the scene.



Figure 1 Exterior-Attached garage, northwest side of residence

Call for service (dispatch, request, date, time):

At approximately 10:48 pm on 01/09/2026, I, Deputy State Fire Marshal Levi Roline, was notified to contact the Rochester Fire Department in reference to a residential structure fire. I made contact with Assistant Fire Marshal (AFM) Jason Fife. AFM Fife stated that Rochester Fire Department crews had located two victims in the garage. The two victims were pronounced deceased at the scene following emergency medical care. AFM Fife was requesting assistance from SFM Investigations due to the fatal injuries to the occupants. It was agreed I would respond to the scene immediately, and that I would be the lead investigator. AFM Fife and AFM Brandon Dohlman would assist with the investigation.

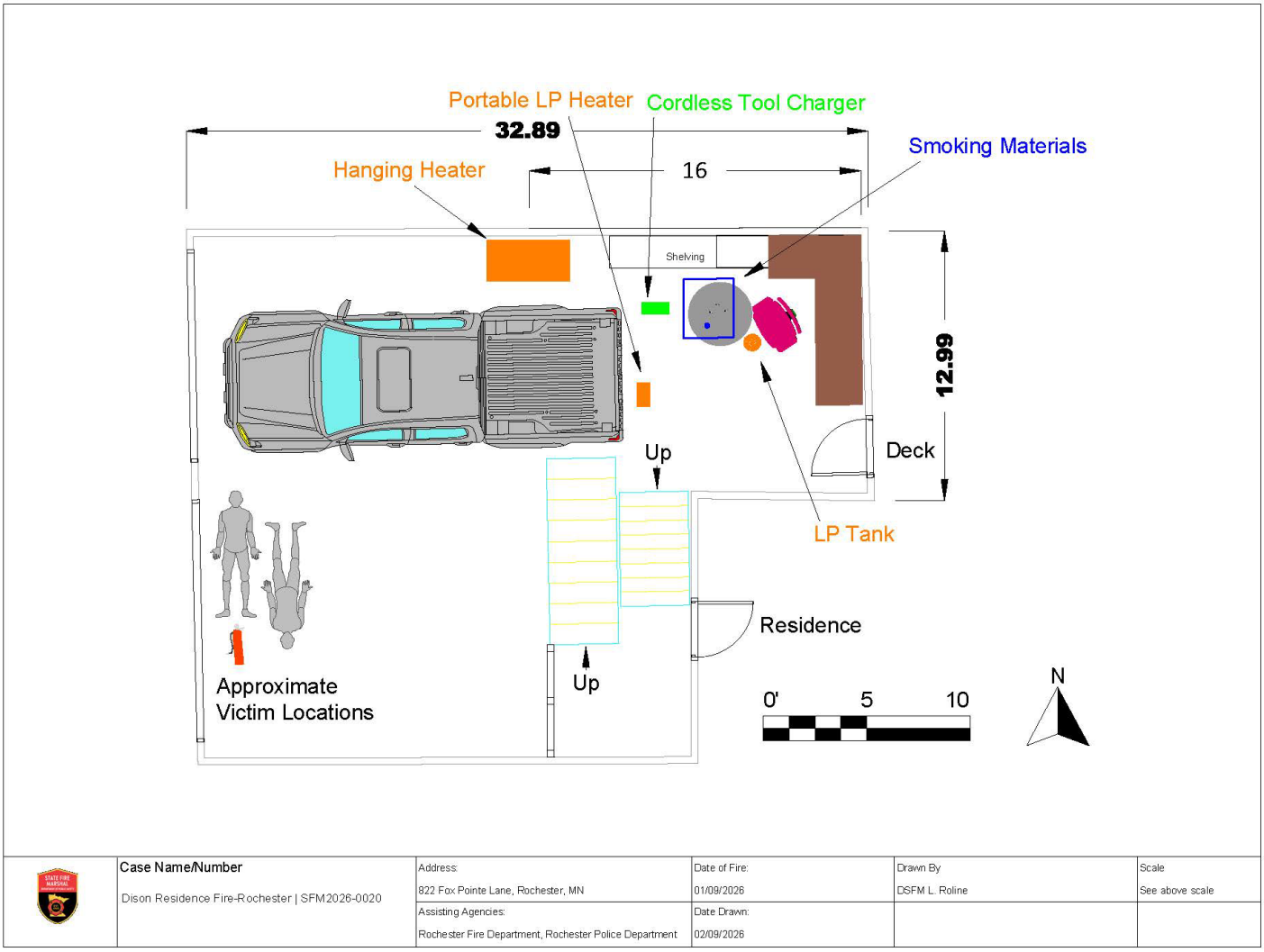
Authority to Enter/Search:
I arrived at the scene at approximately 11:10 pm on 01/09/2026. I made contact with AFM Fife and Battalion Chief Chris Bailey. Fire crews were finishing overhaul operations within the residence upon my arrival. Chief Bailey and AFM Fife stated that 4-gas monitoring within the residence had been completed prior to my arrival. The fire scene examination was conducted under exigent circumstances. On 03/05/2026, a group examination with noticed parties was conducted. Upon arrival at the property, I made contact with Charlie Dison, executor for Gregory Dison's estate. Charlie Dison verbally consented for further examination of the involved property. This follow-up examination was conducted under verbal consent.

Assisting Persons/Agencies:		
Name	**Agency**	**Case Reference if Available**
Assistant Fire Marshal Jason Fife	Rochester Fire Department	2026-0200351
Assistant Fire Marshal Brandon Dohlman	Rochester Fire Department	2026-0200351
Detective Andrew Tindal	Rochester Police Department	2026-1616

Fatalities/Injuries:		
Name	**Fatality/Injury:**	**Notes/Other Information:**
Gregory Dison	Fatality	Reference SERMEO report for further information related to victim disposition.
Duane Kari	Fatality	Reference SERMEO report for further information related to victim disposition.

Photographs:
During the fire scene examination, a series of 123 photographs were taken. 13 360-degree images were taken during the scene examination. The photographs, as well as the photograph log, will be included in the investigative file. A Leica BLK LIDAR scanner was utilized in documenting the garage area of the involved structure. The scan data will be included in the investigative file.

Graphics:



	Case Name/Number	Address:	Date of Fire:	Drawn By	Scale
	Dison Residence Fire-Rochester | SFM2026-0020	822 Fox Pointe Lane, Rochester, MN	01/09/2026	DSFM L. Roline	See above scale
		Assisting Agencies:	Date Drawn:		
		Rochester Fire Department, Rochester Police Department	02/09/2026		

Exterior Scene Examination:

The exterior scene examination began on the south side of the structure and continued around the building in a counter-clockwise fashion. The involved building was a single-story single family residential structure with a walkout basement. The building was of wood frame construction with stucco exterior wall coverings and an asphalt shingle roof.

There were no signs of smoke or fire damage present to the south side of the structure. The natural gas meter and electrical meter socket were located on the southwest side of the building. The electrical meter was removed following the emergency response by the utility company. The natural gas meter was locked out by the utility company. There were no signs of smoke or fire damage at or around the utility meter locations. (Figure 2)



Figure 2 Exterior-Southeast side of structure

On the east side of the structure, there was minimal smoke or fire damage noted to the building, except the man-door on the east side of the attached garage. Significant soot deposition was noted on the exterior of the building above the doorway. There was significant charring to the threshold around the doorway. (Figure 3)



Figure 3 Exterior-Northeast side of structure, garage

There was slight soot deposition noted on the north side of the structure around the exhaust piping for a heater located within the attached garage. The soot deposition was located immediately around the wall opening from the interior of the garage. There were no signs of fire damage on the north side of the building.

There was significant soot deposition and discoloration present on the northwest side of the structure. The attached garage was located on the north side of the building with the residence portion located to the south. The soot deposition was located immediately above the roll-up garage doors for the attached garage. The north garage door had been removed by fire crews during suppression. There was slight melting damage noted to the weather stripping surrounding the garage doors at the top of the doorways. (Fig 1)

Significant soot deposition was also noted around the entry door on the west side of the structure. There was soot deposition present to the underside of the covered entryway and the interior door jamb, consistent with the doorway being open during

fire suppression. There was no thermal damage noted around the west entry door.

Interior Scene Examination:

The interior scene examination began at the west entry door. Upon entry into the main floor of the structure, the entryway opened to a large open floorplan living area and kitchen area, with a bedroom located on the south side of the structure, and the kitchen and living area toward the north side. There was significant soot deposition noted throughout the main floor of the building, greatest to the north side of the main floor as compared to the south side.

The examination continued to the lower level of the structure. Within the lower level of the structure, a lesser degree of soot deposition was noted throughout as compared to the main floor of the building. There were no signs of fire damage present on the lower level of the building. The lower level consisted of a living room/bar area, two bedrooms, a utility room, and a storage room. The circuit breaker panel was located in the storage room. There were four circuit breakers within the 150-amp circuit breaker panel located in the 'tripped' position:

- Dual throw 40-amp circuit breaker in position 2 and 4, indicated 'Air Cond'
- Single throw 20-amp circuit breaker in position 17, indicated 'Freezer'
- Single throw 15-amp circuit breaker in position 18, indicated 'Garage'
- Single throw 15-amp circuit breaker in position 22, indicated 'Laundry'

There were no signs of fire damage or thermal impingement to the circuit breaker panel.

The examination continued at the entryway/laundry area on the main floor leading into the garage area. There was significant soot deposition noted to the ceiling. The door threshold demonstrated soot deposition and charring on the opposing side of the doorway into the garage area, and plastic items on the interior side of the doorway in the residence demonstrated damage from thermal impingement. (Figure 4)



Figure 4 Interior-Garage entryway door from interior of residence to garage

The examination continued to the attached garage. Within the garage there was significant fire damage and soot deposition, greater than the interior of the residence portion of the structure. The examination of the garage began from the north roll-up garage door. A Ram 1500 pickup truck was parked in the north stall of the garage. The south stall of the garage contained trash and miscellaneous storage items. The pickup truck demonstrated melting damage to the rear of the vehicle around the tailgate, brake lights, and bumper. The windows of the truck were broken, and the headliner of the truck had melted downward into the passenger compartment. The seating area that was visible under the headliner demonstrated minimal fire damage. The area to the rear of the pickup demonstrated the greatest damage as compared to the rest of the vehicle, and this damage was the greatest as compared to the rest of the garage area. (Figure 5)



Figure 5 Interior-South side of east garage bay, behind pickup truck

Significant calcination to the gypsum wallboard on the northeast side of the garage was noted near the man-door to the deck area of the residence. This damage correlates with the soot deposition noted from the exterior of the building. The ceiling above this area of the garage was compromised, and stored contents from above had partially fallen through. The area of greatest damage was delayered during the scene examination.

Delayering/Reconstruction:

During the delayering of the area behind the pickup truck, several potential ignition sources were located. A propane fueled heater was located under the vehicle. The heater was a 'Mr Buddy' brand portable heater, with an LP cylinder attached. The heater knob was observed to be in the 'on' or functioning position. There was melting damage noted to the plastic exterior of the heater. Hand rolled cigarette supplies, as well as a smoking device commonly used for smoking marijuana were observed on the table in the rear corner of the garage. A 20 lb propane cylinder was located under the table. A 1 lb propane cylinder was attached to the 20 lb propane cylinder, in a 'fill' configuration. These cylinders demonstrated slight damage to the cylinder itself. Other 1 lb propane cylinders were located in the area that demonstrated more significant oxidation damage. (Figure 6)



Figure 6 Interior-Rear of east garage bay, artifacts recovered during delayering

Group Examination- 03/05/2026

On 03/05/2026, a group examination was held for involved parties. During this examination, further delayering was conducted in the rear of the garage. Several cordless tools and cordless tool batteries were located in the immediate area surrounding the fire area, as well as cordless tool chargers. A cigarette lighter was located in the debris adjacent to the table. A majority of the electrical and gas artifacts located within this area were collected for further laboratory examination. (Figure 7)



Figure 7 Interior-East garage bay, further artifacts uncovered following delayering/removal of pickup truck from interior of garage bay

In early July of 2026, I was contacted by a private fire investigator representing one of the companies on notice for the fire incident. He had attended the laboratory examination, and advised. that the parties involved were done processing the evidentiary items. Further, there was no significant information that resulted from the laboratory examination relative to the origin and cause of the fire.

Interview #1:	
Name:	Charlie Dison
Interview Date:	1/13/2026

Notes:
The following is a summary of non-recorded statements from Charlie Dison (CD), brother of property owner Greg Dison.

-CD stated that he had dropped off his 2024 Ram 1500 to be worked on with Greg on Thursday prior to the fire.
-When he dropped the vehicle off he did not notice anything odd or out of the ordinary.
-CD does not regularly spend time at Greg Dison's residence, and was unsure of any renovations, modifications, or issues related to the building or contents.
-On the evening of the fire, Greg Dison had sent Charlie Dison a video while detailing the pickup truck.
-CD was unsure of what the process or procedure that Greg Dison would have used to detail the truck.
-CD was unsure of any chemicals or power tools that may have been used to detail the truck.
-CD stated that Greg Dison usually kept to himself, and was preparing to sell the property in an attempt to downsize.
-CD provided the video for the investigation, see video section.
-CD stated that the truck was being worked on by Greg Dison and his friend Duane Kari.
-Greg and Duane both were known to drink, but Duane was known to drink more than Greg.
-Duane was known to be a smoker, but CD was unsure of what Duane smoked or how much.
-CD stated that Greg Dison had no enemies, and no reason to believe the fire was intentionally set.

Interview #2:	
Name:	Bryce Kari
Interview Date:	01/13/2026

Notes:
The following is a summary of non-recorded statements from Bryce Kari (BK), son of Duane Kari.

-BK stated he was informed of the fire by law enforcement, and that he was the next-of-kin to Duane Kari.
-BK was relatively estranged from his father, and was unable to identify daily activities or routines for Duane.
-BK stated that Duane Kari was known to drink alcohol and smoke, but the amounts had varied due to health challenges.
-BK was not familiar with Greg Dison or the residence where the fire had occurred.

Video:

Surveillance Camera Footage:

During the exterior scene examination, the area immediately surrounding the fire scene was examined for security cameras present in the area that may have captured the events leading up to the fire. There were no cameras located by myself, the fire department, or the police department that were active and recording the area around or including the fire area.

Drone First Response Footage:

The Rochester Police Department operates a Drone-First Responder Program. On the evening of the fire, the Drone-First Responder was launched to the scene. The thermal imaging camera, as well as the standard camera depict significant smoke and fire conditions from the interior of the garage. The primary area of visible flames was located around the garage man-door. (Figure)



Figure 8 Rochester/Olmsted Skydio Drone FLIR Screenshot



Figure 9 Rochester/Olmsted Skydio Drone Camera Screenshot

Cell Phone Video Prior to Fire:

A brief cell phone clip was reviewed from Greg Dison that had been sent to Charlie Dison while at the scene of the group examination on 3/5/2026. The cell phone clip showed the rear of the pickup truck, and depicted Greg Dison showing Charlie Dison the work that was ongoing on the vehicle. The clip partially showed some tools located at the rear of the vehicle, consistent with the tools located in the area during the group exam on 3/5/26.

Weather Reviewed:

The following is weather data reviewed for the hours leading up to the fire incident. There were no reported thunderstorms or lightning events in the area prior to the fire. Weather did not have a significant impact on fire growth or causation.

Time:	Temperature:	Humidity:	Wind Direction:	Wind Speed:	Conditions:
6:54 PM	30 °F	85 %	W	5 mph	Fair
7:54 PM	29 °F	89 %	WNW	7 mph	Fair
8:54 PM	28 °F	92 %	WNW	6 mph	Fair
9:54 PM	28 °F	88 %	NW	7 mph	Fair

Weather Source: https://www.wunderground.com/history/daily/us/mn/stewartville/KRST/date/2026-1-9

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Evidence identified/collected/preserved:
There was no evidence collected by the MN State Fire Marshal Division.

Other Forms/Documents/Reports Reviewed:

Rochester Fire Department Incident Report 2026-0200351:

The relevant Rochester Fire Department Incident Report was reviewed, the following were noted to be relevant details:

- Upon arrival, crews encountered significant smoke conditions from the roofline and throughout the building.
- There was little visible flame encountered by crews on the exterior of the structure.
- The victims were located near the roll-up garage doors, by crews making entry into the garage area for suppression.
- Overhaul operations were conducted but attempted to be sparing to allow for further investigation.

NFPA 921 2024 Edition:

The following are relevant citations from NFPA 921, Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations:

19.6.5.1 Cause Undetermined

In circumstances where all hypotheses have been rejected, or if two or more hypotheses cannot be rejected, the only choice for the investigator is to conclude that the fire cause, or specific causal factors, is undetermined. It is improper to base hypotheses on the absence of any supportive evidence. That is, it is improper to opine a specific fire cause, ignition source, or fuel that has no evidence to support it even though all other such hypothesized elements were eliminated.

19.7.4 Undetermined Fire Cause

The final opinion is only as good as the quality of the data used in reaching that opinion. If the level of certainty of the opinion is only "possible" or "suspected," the fire cause is undetermined. This decision as to the quality of data and level of certainty of the opinions rests with the investigator.

Area of Origin:

Area of Origin:

Based on the fire scene examination, witness statements, and other data reviewed, the area of origin was determined to be within the garage behind the pickup truck adjacent to the man-door based on the following data:

-Responding fire crews identified that there was minimal fire present within the structure.
-The drone thermal imaging camera and standard camera depicted the primary area of active fire at the rear of the garage behind the pickup truck
-Upon opening the garage, firefighters located the main area of fire inside the garage.
-Lightweight combustible materials in front of the truck demonstrated slight melting and consumption of mass compared to significant consumption of mass and damage beyond recognition to items stored and located behind the vehicle.
-Significant charring damage was noted to the structural members located in and immediately adjacent to this area, compared to the rest of the garage.

Cause Hypothesis Development and Testing:

Several potential ignition sources were located within the area of origin during the initial scene examination and follow-up examination. These ignition sources included smoking materials, the propane fueled heater. Due to the high degree of damage and inability to interview the occupants of the garage on the night of the fire, causal hypotheses were not able to be developed, tested, and eliminated in congruence with the scientific method in accordance with NFPA 921. (Section 19.6.5.1, 19.7.4)

Final Hypothesis/Conclusion:

Conclusion:

Based on the fire scene examination, witness statements, and other data reviewed, the area of origin was determined to be within the garage behind the pickup truck adjacent to the man-door. Several potential ignition sources were located within the area of origin during the initial scene examination and follow-up examination. These ignition sources included smoking materials and a propane fueled heater. Due to the high degree of damage and inability to interview the occupants of the garage on the night of the fire, causal hypotheses were not able to be developed, tested, and eliminated in congruence with the scientific method in accordance with NFPA 921. (Section 19.6.5.1, 19.7.4)

The opinions expressed in this conclusion are based on data and evidence collected to this point. The opinions are subject to change based upon relevant, significant and credible information discovered or provided in the future.

References:

Technical Committee on Fire Investigations. 2023. NFPA 921: Guide For Fire & Explosion Investigations. *2024 Edition*. NFPA. Quincy, MA

Case Closure:

Investigator: DSFM L. Roline

Date: 08/06/2026

Signature:

Levi H Roline