Chicago Fire Department
Office of Fire Investigation

53 E. Pershing Rd
Chicago, IL 60653

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

Cause: Undetermined

OFI Case #: 23-0123 **Fire Marshal:** Kroll/Boll
OEMC Event #: 230371478 **Platoon:** 2

Primary Address or Location: 4714 W Lake St.
Secondary Address or Location: N/A

Battalion: 18 **Name:** Plescia **File #:** [redacted]

Date of Incident: 2/6/2023
Type of Alarm: 211
Time of Alarm: 1419 hrs
Time OFI Notified: 1424 hrs
Box #: 121450

CPD RD#: JG 142843
CPD Officer: Solis
Beat #: 1122
Star #: 8246
Arson Notified: Yes **Responded:** No

Occupancy: Factory/G000F
Second Code: N/A
If Commercial: N/A

Weather Conditions:
Temperature: 42° **Wind Direction:** Southeast **Wind Speed:** 09 mph
Humidity: 61% **Lighting:** Artificial

Owner/Occupant Date:
Owner Name: Byron Finke **Insurance:** None
Address: [redacted]
Occupant Name: [redacted] **Insurance:** None

Origin and Cause Data:
Room/s: UU **Floor/s:** 1
Heat Source: UU **Apartment/s:** N/A
Material Ignited: UU **Odors Noted:** No
Form of Material: UU **Multiple Origins:** Choose an item.

Miscellaneous Data:
Injuries: 1 **Fatalities:** 0 **Juvenile:** Unknown **Smoke Detectors:** Unknown

Brief Narrative (Origin, Cause, and Extension):
This fire originated within the structure at the above address. However due to the severe structural damage/collapse of the building, the R/FM was unable to safely complete a systematic and through origin and cause investigation. No investigation can be conducted under the current circumstances of the event. At this time the fire is being classified as Undetermined.

Fire Department Data

Still Alarm Companies:

Engine: 117 **Truck/Tower:** 26 **Squad:** 2
Engine: 113 **Truck/Tower:** 14

Other Fire/EMS Units at Scene: (List *All* Fire Department Units on Scene)
E44, E76, E95, E96, E107, E26, T36, T7, T29, T35, T32, TL5, TL10, BC7, BC17, BC14, BC4, BC8, BC15, BC3, 215, 224, A67, A77, A15, A52, A45, A10, A44, 454, 457, 515, 2122, 645, 639, 572, CV271

Incident Commander Interview:
BC Plescia, File [redacted], BN18, 2A, related in essence to the RFM that upon arrival to the above address he observed heavy smoke emanating from the doors and windows on south side of the subject property. It was related to BN18 by members of T26 that the building did have a truss roof with heavy smoke and fire emanating from it. Due to the building construction and rapidly deteriorating smoke and fire conditions, BC Plescia transmitted a "Still & Box" alarm and initiated defensive operations. BC Plescia further related that companies did force entry into the structure and observed heavy fire in the middle of the building emanating from the floor spreading upward and involving the roof area. One occupant was observed outside the building and was being attacked by a dog. The occupant related that there were no other persons inside the building at the time of the fire. The victim was transported to Stroger Hospital by CFD A15, "Yellow". No smoke alarms were audible at any time during the response.

Engine Officer Interview:
Capt. Walsh, File [redacted] E113, 2C, related in essence to the RFM that upon arrival of E113 to the above address, he observed heavy smoke emanating from the doors and windows on south side of the subject property. Upon entry to the building from the southwest entry door, Capt. Walsh observed heavy fire in the middle of the structure at floor level spreading upward to the roof area. Smoke conditions were heavy and escalating, with limited visibility. Capt. Walsh related that E113 was ordered out of the building by BN18, at which time defensive operations were initiated.

Truck Officer Interview:
Lt. Kelly, File [redacted], T26, 2C, related in essence to the RFM that upon arrival of T26 to the above address, he observed heavy smoke emanating from the doors and windows on the south side of the subject property. Lt. Kelly forced entry to the overhead garage door near the southwest corner of the building (Lake St.) and observed heavy fire in the middle of the structure at floor level spreading upward to the roof area. Smoke conditions were heavy, with limited visibility. Lt. Kelly related that T26 was ordered out of the building and off the roof by BN18, at which time defensive operations were initiated. Due to rapidly deteriorating conditions from smoke and fire conditions, and fire impingement of the truss roof, primary searches were unable to be completed.

Method of Entry: (Explain)
Lt. Kelly and members of T26, forced entry to the overhead garage door. TL14 forced entry to the doors on the east side of the building.

Type of Work Performed by Still Alarm Companies:

☒Primary Search	☒Suppression	☐Hazardous Material
☒Secondary Search	☒Ventilation	☒EMS
☒Final Search	☐Rescue	

Rescue Data:
None.

Building/Structure Data

Ownership/Corporate and Insurance Data:
Byron Finke, [redacted], D.O.B [redacted]
Ph#[redacted] Insurance: None

Occupant(s) and Insurance Data:
[redacted] D.O.B. [redacted] 4714 W. Lake St., Chicago IL 60644
Ph#[redacted] Insurance: Unknown

Physical Description of Structure:
Factory, 1 story, Ordinary construction w/Basement. Bow-String Truss roof. Approximate exterior dimensions 150' X 125'. G000F

Exterior Examination of Structure:
An exterior examination of the subject structure revealed that this fire did not originate on the exterior of the building. Further examination revealed the structure did have electrical service from the alley, on the north side of the building at the time of the incident and appears normal operating condition.

Fire Extension to Other Structure/s:
None.

Previous Fire History: (Master Journal)
A review of the OFI Master Journal revealed no previous fire investigations from this office at the above location.

Smoke Detector Data:
Unknown. Due to the structural collapse of the roof the RFM could not enter the structure. Responding companies related to the RFM that no smoke alarms were audible within the building upon their arrival.

Code Violations:
Open, dangerous, and Unsecured building.

Fire Detection/Protection System Data:

☐ Sprinklers	☐ Security Services	☒ None
☐ Standpipe	☐ Automatic Fire Alarm	☐ Other
☐ Heat Detector	☐ Automatic Burglar Alarm	
☐ Fire Escapes	☐ Smoke Towers	

Factor in this Fire/Explosion:

☐ **Yes (explain):** Unknown. Due to the structural collapse of the roof the RFM could not enter the structure to examine and evaluate potential sources of ignition.

☒ **No**

Heating System Inspection Data: Click or tap here to enter text.

Type:	**Fuel:**	**System:**
☐ Furnace	☐ Natural Gas	☐ Central
☐ Boiler	☐ Electric	☐ Forced Air
☐ Wall Heater	☐ Propane	☐ Individual
☐ Space Heater	☐ Kerosene	☐ Radiant
☐ People Heater		☐ Hot Air

☐ None ☐ None in Origin

☒ **Other (explain):** Unknown. Due to the structural collapse of the roof the RFM could not enter the structure to examine and evaluate potential sources of ignition.

Factor in this Fire/Explosion:

☐ **Yes (explain):** Click or tap here to enter text.

☐ **No**

Air Conditioning Data: Unknown. Due to the structural collapse of the roof the RFM could not enter the structure to examine and evaluate potential sources of ignition.

Factor in this Fire/Explosion:

☐ **Yes (explain):** Click or tap here to enter text.

☐ **No**

Water Heater System Data: Unknown. Due to the structural collapse of the roof the RFM could not enter the structure to examine and evaluate potential sources of ignition.

Factor in this Fire/Explosion:

☐ **Yes (explain):** Click or tap here to enter text.

☐ **No**

Cooking Implement Data:

Type:	**Fuel:**
☐ Range	☐ Natural Gas
☐ Oven	☐ Electric
☐ Microwave	☐ Propane
☐ Cooktop	☐ Kerosene
☐ Hot Plate	

☐ None ☐ None in Origin

☒ **Other (explain):** Unknown. Due to the structural collapse of the roof the RFM could not enter the structure to examine and evaluate potential sources of ignition.

Factor in this Fire/Explosion:

☐ **Yes (explain):** Click or tap here to enter text.

☐ **No**

Gas Service Inspection Data: (Location and Condition)
Unknown. Due to the structural collapse of the roof the RFM could not enter the structure to examine and evaluate potential sources of ignition. The RFM observed no gas service on the exterior of the building.

Factor in this Fire/Explosion:

☐ Yes (explain): Click or tap here to enter text.

☐ No

Electric System/s Data: Unknown. Due to the structural collapse of the roof the RFM could not enter the structure to examine and evaluate potential sources of ignition.

Amperage: Choose an item. **Protection Type:** Choose an item.

Bypassed/Altered/Illegal Service (explain):
The RFM observed no bypassed, altered, or illegal electrical service on the exterior of the building.

Blown/Tripped:
Unknown. Due to the structural collapse of the roof the RFM could not enter the structure to examine and evaluate potential sources of ignition.

☐ **None at Origin** ☐ **No Electrical Service**

Factor in this Fire/Explosion:

☐ **Yes (explain):** Click or tap here to enter text.

☐ **No**

OFI Investigation

Person Reporting Fire to OEMC: Per the OEMC, Unknown caller, AT&T, Ph# [redacted] reported smoke from a warehouse.

Witness Data: None.

Interview Data: Byron Finke, [redacted] D.O.B [redacted], [redacted] Ph# [redacted], related in essence to the RFM that he was the owner of the subject property and was not present at the time of the fire. Mr. Finke related that he was made aware of the fire via cell phone calls from multiple persons. Mr. Finke related the following; the building was occupied by [redacted] D.O.B. [redacted], 4714 W. Lake St., Chicago IL 60644 Ph# [redacted], at the time of the fire. Mr. Finke was in the process of having [redacted] evicted from the building; Mr. Finke has owned the property since the year 2018 and was last in/at the property on the morning of the fire. There was work crew from MTS Remodeling, removing debris from a connected

property, (4716 W. Lake St), at the time of the fire. It was related to the RFM that the subject property was used for an "artist space" and work area. Multiple vehicles were inside the building at the time of the fire.

Mr. Finke related that there was living space on the east side of the building, above the 1st floor. He further related that the space did contain multiple space heaters. Mr. Finke was unable to recall if the heaters were operational.

[redacted] D.O.B [redacted], related in essence to the RFM that he worked for MTS Remodeling and was inside an adjacent property (4716 W. Lake St.), at the time of the fire. [redacted] related that he was removing debris from the property when he observed smoke emanating from a large overhead door that connected the two properties. [redacted] further related to the RFM that he went over to the door and observed fire in what he described as the middle of the building (4714 W. Lake), coming from the floor. [redacted] related that he did not see exactly what was on fire due to the contents of the building in front of him. [redacted] exited the building for his safety.

Area(s) of Origin: Unknown. Due to the structural collapse of the roof the RFM could not enter the structure to examine and evaluate potential sources of ignition.

Approximate Location of Origin: Unknown. Due to the structural collapse of the roof the RFM could not enter the structure to examine and evaluate potential sources of ignition.

Injury Data: No fire related injuries were reported at the time of the fire. [redacted] D.O.B.[redacted] 4714 W. Lake St., Chicago IL 60644 Ph#[redacted]transported by A15 to Stroger hospital for dog bite.

Fatality Data: None.

Photographer: Kroll.

Other Agencies on Scene: CPD Beat #1122, City of Chicago Building Dept. (Kevin Brady, Building Demolitions, BL#[redacted]), ComEd, Water Dept.

Person/s Wanted for Questioning: None.

Recommendations: The RFM recommends that the scene is secured and remanded to the CPD, until the building is deemed safe for entry, at which time an origin and cause investigation can be conducted.

Notification Data: The RFM notified the CPD beat car this is a potential crime scene, and their continued presence is required.

The RFM notified the Duty Response Officer via cell phone @ approximately 1500 hrs.

The RFM notified ATF Agent Michelin via cell phone @ approximately 1505 hrs.

The RFM notified the City of Chicago Building department via the OEMC @ approximately 1600 Hrs.

The RFM notified CPD Arson Unit, (Det. Rivera, Beat #5712, Star #20251), via cell phone at approximately 2130 hrs.

Summary and Conclusion:
This fire originated within the structure at the above address. However due to the severe structural damage/collapse of the building, the R/FM was unable to safely complete a systematic and through origin and cause investigation. No investigation can be conducted under the current circumstances of the event. At this time the fire is being classified as Undetermined.

Fire Scene Remanded To: CPD Beat #1114, P/O Gonzalez, Star #19031

Fire Marshal:
Name: Kroll **Rank:** SFM **Badge:** [redacted]

Review and Approval:
BB
Bradley Batka **Date:** 2/9/2023
Assistant Commanding Fire Marshal

Click or tap here to enter text.
Ryan Rivera **Date:** Click or tap to enter a date.
Commanding Fire Marshal

This report was prepared considering information available at the time of its completion. The Chicago Fire Department's Office of Fire Investigation reserves the right to amend this report if additional information becomes available.
(Revised 3/31/22)