

# INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM MIAMI-DADE FIRE RESCUE

FDID	State	Inc Date	Inc Time	Inc No	Exposure
01032	FL	2023-01-28	10:28:00	<a href="#">3023903</a>	000 <input type="button" value="v"/>

Incident Location (from CAD)

395 NW 177TH ST

Basic                      Fire                      Structure                      INVESTIGATION                      Apparatus                      FF Cas.                       
 Addendum

MAIN                      Evidence                     

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## FIRE INVESTIGATION REPORT

Incident Number: 3023903

Unit, Shift, Station, Battalion:

Unit: V06                      Shift: B                      Station: 45                      Battalion: FIB

**This report is pending for approval.**

**B** Dates and Times:

Dispatch: 2023-01-28 11:43:17  
 Arrival: 2023-01-28 11:51:11  
 Clear: 2023-01-28 20:20:58

Date of Investigation: 2023-02-23 08:06:44  
 Type of Investigation: Structure Fire  
 Retention Schedule: 7 years

Scene:

Scene Condition Altered: No                      Forcibly Entry: Yes  
 Occupied: Yes                      Abandoned: No  
 Secured By: MDR

Utilities:

Electricity Disconnected: Yes                      Disconnected By: Florida Power & Light  
 Gas Disconnected: N/A  
 Burglar Alarm: N/A  
 Insurance: Unk

Vehicle/Marine Information:

Abandoned:                      Stripped:  
 Battery Present:                      Registration:


Other Information Available:

Involved Module: No      Agency Module: No      Evidence Module: Yes      Juvenile Module: No

**L** Additional Pertinent Information/Narrative:

Attachment: [3023903\\_3023903 Final Report.pdf](#)

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 OF THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT ON FILE WITH  
 MIAMI-DADE COUNTY  
 FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT  
 9300 N.W. 41 STREET  
 DORAL, FLORIDA 33178-2414



Created By: Lieutenant STEPHEN M ALEXANDER ( [e76329](#) )            Date: 2023-02-23 08:06:44

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INCIDENT NARRATIVE

INVESTIGATOR: Lt. Stephen Alexander

3023903  
ALARM#

395 NW 177 Street, Miami, FL 33169  
ADDRESS

28JAN23  
DATE

1 **SYNOPSIS OF INVESTIGATION**

2 Based upon my thorough and scientific fire scene examination, including careful fire pattern analysis, and the  
3 information provided by the witnesses and fire crews, it is my conclusion that the origin of the fire was located inside  
4 the cockloft space above apartment 217. No specific ignition source was found within or adjacent to the area of  
5 origin. Therefore, it is my conclusion that the cause of the fire is classified as "Undetermined."

6

7 **METHODOLOGY:**

8 This fire scene examination was conducted using a scientific methodology, the basic method of fire investigation, and  
9 a systematic approach as discussed in the 2021 Edition of NFPA 921: "Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations"  
10 and the 2022 Edition of NFPA 1033: "Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator."

11

12 **ASSIGNMENT:**

13 I was dispatched by Miami Dade Fire Rescue Dispatch via phone on 28JAN23 at 1143 in reference to a request for an  
14 origin and cause investigation. The incident occurred at 395 NW 177 St, Miami Gardens, FL 33169 on 28JAN23 at  
15 1028. The investigation was at the request of MDR Incident Commander, Chief Fire Officer Jose Martinez, Battalion  
16 4. I arrived at the fire scene at approximately 1151 on 28JAN23.

17

18 **SCOPE OF INVESTIGATION:**

19 During my fire scene investigation, the following tasks were conducted as part of the data collection process as  
20 prescribed in NFPA 921; 2021 Edition.

- 21 1. Examine all available fire-damaged areas located throughout the structure.
- 22 2. Conduct a fire pattern analysis to identify all fire patterns.
- 23 3. Identify and consider the effects of ventilation and fire spread.
- 24 4. Identify the area of origin and identify the ignition source that caused the fire.
- 25 5. Examine and identify all available physical evidence related to the incident.
- 26 6. Preserve physical evidence for later examination by engineers and laboratory analysis.
- 27 7. Identify and interview all available witnesses and persons associated with this incident.
- 28 8. Review reports and documents associated with this incident.

29

30

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MIAMI-DADE COUNTY  
DATE 01/28/23





INCIDENT NARRATIVE

31 WITNESS INTERVIEWS AND VIDEO FOOTAGE:

32 **Fuquan Thomas (Occupant of Apt. 220)**  
33 **DOB: 05JUN93**  
34 **Cell: 5615633223**

35 In summary, Mr. Thomas provided me with the following information:

- 36 • He lives at 395 NW 127 ST Apt. 220, Miami Gardens, FL.
- 37 • He smelled smoke and heard people yelling outside.
- 38 • When he looked outside, he saw smoke coming out of the eaves of the back of apartment 217.
- 39 • As he evacuated the building, he saw flames inside apartment 217.
- 40 • His Ring camera showed the back side of apartment 217.

41 **Video provided by Mr. Fuquan Thomas**

- 42 • Smoke was coming from the eaves above the back (west) side of apartment 217.
- 43 • Smoke was coming from the back door of apartment 217.

44 **Herby Myrtil (Owner of DJTH Roofing)**  
45 **DOB: 01FEB72**  
46 **DL: M634320720410**  
47 **12030 NW 21 Ct, N Miami, FL 33167**  
48 **Cell: 786-277-2525**

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*[Signature]* 02/28/23

- 49 • He had been doing roof work on 395 NW 177 St for more than a month.
- 50 • He had come to the scene to pick up supplies for a job in Ft. Lauderdale.
- 51 • He was not doing roof work at the property today.
- 52 • They last worked on the roof yesterday, 27JAN23.
- 53 • They worked on the west side of the building.
- 54 • They were not using hot tar or using torches.
- 55 • They were installing pans around air conditioner openings.
- 56 • They had not worked in the vicinity of the fire origin approximately two weeks ago.
- 57 • He dropped his brother off in the east parking lot to gather the needed supplies, and he continued on to get
- 58 gas at a nearby gas station.
- 59 • He and his brother were talking on the phone, and his brother told him that there was smoke coming from
- 60 the eaves near the northeast corner of the building.
- 61 • He turned around and drove into the east parking lot.
- 62 • He saw smoke coming from the eaves above apartment 217.
- 63 • There was also smoke coming from the open entry door of apartment 217.
- 64 • He took a fire extinguisher from a cabinet on the first floor and took it up the stairs to apartment 217.
- 65 • The fire was venting through the top north corner of the window located on the south side of the open entry
- 66 door of apartment 217.
- 67 • There was heavy smoke coming from the open entry door of apartment 217.
- 68 • He discharged the fire extinguisher through the door into apartment 217.
- 69 • The fire extinguisher didn't make any difference.
- 70



INCIDENT NARRATIVE

71 • He called the Property Manager and left the scene.

72 **Denise Brooks (Property Manager)**  
73 **305-747-5526**

- 74 • She is employed by Prestige Group of Companies LLC.
- 75 • She was made aware of the incident when Mr. Myrttil, the roofer, called her from the property.
- 76 • The roofing company was not working on the roof on weekends.
- 77 • She was not aware of any electrical issues in the building.

79 **Luisa Aguila (resident of apartment 217)**  
80 **DOB: 20NOV92**  
81 **305-321-3171**

- 82 • She was inside the apartment at the time of the incident.
- 83 • Her son, Anthony Aguila, and her daughter, Amanda Aguila, were with her.
- 84 • They were in the west bedroom getting ready to go out.
- 85 • Amanda needed something from the east bedroom, and when she walked near the bedroom, she told her
- 86 that there was smoke in the bedroom.
- 87 • She went to investigate and confirmed that there was a lot of smoke in east bedroom.
- 88 • She didn't see fire in the east bedroom.
- 89 • The smoke detector never alarmed.
- 90 • They evacuated the apartment and went to the parking lot.
- 91 • There was heavy smoke coming out of the eaves above her apartment.
- 92 • Soon after they evacuated smoke started coming out of the front door and fire vented out of the east
- 93 bedroom window and the roof started burning.
- 94 • The fire started coming from the window and the roof at the same time.
- 95 • They had a roof leak near the airconditioner that was repaired approximately TWO WEEKS AGO.
- 96 • A maintenance man came on 26JAN23 to make repairs that occurred due to the roof leak.
- 97 • He repaired the ceiling and AC wiring and replaced the AC thermostat and smoke detector.
- 98 • The water damage occurred and repairs made were in the general vicinity of where the smoke was first seen.

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100  
101 **Video footage found on Social Media Sites from multiple undetermined sources:**

102  
103 I concentrated on viewing those videos that showed the fire during its early stages on the east side of the structure  
104 and documented what I saw as a compilation.

- 105 • Smoke was coming from the eaves on the east side of the structure above apartment 217.
- 106 • The front door opened and a child came out of apartment 217.
- 107 • The child waited at the door until two more individuals joined.
- 108 • They left the door open and went towards the stairs.
- 109 • Smoke started to come from the open door of apartment 217.
- 110 • A person came from the stairs and appeared to attempt to enter apartment 217 and then ran back towards
- 111 the stairs.
- 112 • Fire vented through the top north side of apartment's east bedroom window.
- 113 • A few seconds after the fire vented through the window fire vented through the roof above apartment 217.



INCIDENT NARRATIVE

116 FIRE AND POLICE DEPARTMENT INFORMATION:

117 Upon my arrival at the incident scene, I met with MDRF Chief Fire Officer Jose Martinez. CFO Martinez provided me  
118 with the following information:

- 119 • Ladder 38 arrived first and found fire venting through the roof on the east side of the structure near the  
120 north corner.
- 121 • They found that apartment 217 with fire inside the apartment and in the cockloft above it.
- 122 • The front door of apartment 217 was found wide open.
- 123 • Winds were out of the east at approximately 15 knots.
- 124 • Fire spread quickly through the cockloft from the area of origin.
- 125 • A trench was cut into the roof south of the origin, and the forward progress of the fire was stopped in that  
126 direction.
- 127 • The fire spread too fast for fire crews to stop the fire’s progress through the cockloft on the north side of the  
128 structure and into the west side of the structure.
- 129 • The forward progress of the fire was stopped approximately three hundred feet south of the north side on  
130 the west side of the structure.

131 Miami Gardens Police Department responded to the scene. Ofc. J. Martin, badge 1955, was the primary officer. The  
132 associated case number is 2023-001676. Ofc. Martin arrived in very near time proximity to MDRF Ladder 38. He saw  
133 fire coming from the roof on the east side of the structure, but concentrated on traffic control to allow the incoming  
134 MDRF units clear access to the fire structure.

135 I was assisted by several MDRF Fire Investigators and other agencies to perform the investigation.

- 136 • MDRF Fire Investigator Officer-in-Charge Captain M. Ung, VOC.
- 137 • MDRF Fire Investigator Lieutenant R. Andrews, V03.
- 138 • MDRF Fire Investigator Lieutenant G. Forrester, V04.
- 139 • MDRF Fire Investigator Lieutenant G. Windsor, V09.
- 140 • Miami Dade Police Crime Scene Bureau Ofc. B. Dow, badge 4558. Case number PD2301280328.
- 141 • Florida Bureau of Fire Arson and Explosives Investigations Detective A. Galan, badge S78. Case number 23-  
142 377.
- 143 • Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms Special Agent J. Wilson, badge 4642. Case number 764025-23-0025.

144 FIRE SCENE EXAMINATION:

145 EXTERIOR:

146 I began my examination of the fire scene by walking in a counter-clockwise direction around the exterior of the  
147 structure, starting on the south side. The structure is a two-story residential multi-family structure with a courtyard.  
148 The south side had no fire or smoke damage. The east side had severe fire damage to the second-floor wall, eaves,  
149 and roof structure starting approximately two hundred feet from the north corner and north. The north side had  
150 severe damage to the second-floor wall, eaves, and roof structure along the entire length. The west side had severe  
151 fire damage to the second-floor wall, eaves, and roof structure starting approximately three hundred feet from the  
152 north corner and north.

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INCIDENT NARRATIVE

153 On the inside of the courtyard the south side had no fire or smoke damage. The east side had severe fire damage to  
154 the second-floor wall, eaves, and roof structure starting approximately two hundred feet from the north corner and  
155 north. The north side had severe damage to the second-floor wall, eaves, and roof structure along the entire length.  
156 The west side had severe fire damage to the second-floor wall, eaves, and roof structure starting approximately three  
157 hundred feet from the north corner and north.

158 There appeared to be twenty-four apartments on the second floor that were directly affected by the fire. Most of  
159 these apartments had severe fire damage, with the roof burned away. The first-floor apartments did not have fire  
160 damage but had severe water damage.

161 Digital photographs were taken to document the investigation and fire damage.

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163 INTERIOR:

164 The investigation was concentrated on apartment 217 after identifying fire patterns, eyewitness statements, and  
165 video footage that indicated this unit as the unit of origin.

166 I entered apartment 217 through the front door located on the second floor of the east side of the structure. The  
167 security gate and door showed no signs of forced entry. The front entry had severe smoke damage. The ceiling and  
168 roof were burned away. The closet on the south side of the entryway had smoke damage, and a religious shrine with  
169 candles. There was no evidence to indicate the fire originated in this area.

170 The kitchen had fire smoke and fire damage. The ceiling had partially collapsed, and the roof above had burned away.  
171 The breaker panel was located in the southeast corner of the kitchen. The breakers were not labeled. Breakers 2, 3/5,  
172 4, and 14 were tripped. There was no evidence to indicate that the fire originated in the breaker panel. There was no  
173 evidence to indicate the fire originated in the kitchen.

174 The living/dining room had severe fire damage. The ceiling and roof were burned away. There was no evidence to  
175 indicate the fire originated in this area.

176 The west (master) bedroom, closet, and bathroom had severe fire damage. There was no evidence to indicate the  
177 fire originated in these areas.

178 The hallway to the bathroom and east bedroom had severe fire damage. The A/C closet had severe fire damage. The  
179 bathroom had severe smoke damage. The ceiling and roof were burned away. There was no evidence to indicate the  
180 fire originated in these areas.

181 The east bedroom had severe fire damage. Special attention was given to this room since eyewitness statements  
182 indicated and video footage showed fire venting through this room's window during the early stages of the fire. The  
183 ceiling and roof were burned away. There were four duplex outlets located around the room. There was an extension  
184 cord plugged into the outlet on the west wall. The outlets and extension cord had fire damage but showed no  
185 evidence to indicate that they failed in a way that would have caused a fire. There was no evidence to indicate floor-  
186 level burning in the initial stages of the fire. The roof trusses had mass loss that indicated the fire burned downward





**INCIDENT NARRATIVE**

187 and dropped down into the room. There was a mattress located under the window that would have been a fuel load  
188 sufficient to have caused the fire to vent through the window.

189 Further examination of this unit indicated that all of the rooms had drywall covering the four walls and ceiling. The  
190 exterior walls and those between the unit to the south were concrete block.

191 Digital photographs were taken to document the investigation and fire damage.

192 **IDENTIFICATION OF THE AREA OF ORIGIN:**

193 After a complete and thorough examination of apartment 217, I was able to determine that the fire originated inside  
194 the cockloft space above this apartment. Examination of the existing wooden trusses showed the most significant  
195 mass loss on top of the bottom chords and the bottom of the top chords. These patterns were the same as seen  
196 above other areas that were known to have been involved in fire much later in the timeline. Identification of this area  
197 was made using eyewitness statements and video footage indicating that this area was the first to have visible smoke  
198 and fire.

199 **FIRE PATTERN ANALYSIS:**

200 The major objective of any fire scene examination is to collect data as required by the scientific method of  
201 investigation as prescribed in NFPA 921; 2021 Edition. Such data includes the patterns produced by the fire. The  
202 collection of fire scene data requires the recognition and identification of fire effects and fire patterns. The data can  
203 also be used for fire pattern analysis. This data and analysis can be used to test hypotheses as to the origin of the fire.

204 After the systematic examination of the fire debris within the east bedroom of apartment 217, I was able to observe  
205 that the burning began in the cockloft space above this unit. The pattern passed through the roof covering and into  
206 the east bedroom as calcination of the drywall ceiling covering allowed drop down into the living spaces of the  
207 apartment, starting in the east bedroom.

208 **IDENTIFY VENTILATION AND WEATHER FACTORS INVOLVED:**

209 A weather report from Weather Underground showed that a strong wind was blowing east-northeast at 15 MPH and  
210 gusting up to 23 MPH at the time of the incident. This, in combination with a lack of fire stops within the cockloft,  
211 allowed for a continuous airflow which helped to increase the intensity and spread of the fire.

212 A report from Strikenet showed no lightning strikes within a ten-mile radius of the incident scene during the time  
213 period of 27JAN23 at 2300 until 28JAN23 at 1100.

214

215 **IDENTIFICATION OF ALL COMPETENT IGNITION SOURCES WITHIN THE ROOM OF ORIGIN:**

216 A competent ignition source, as defined in NFPA 921; 2021 edition, is an ignition source that has sufficient energy  
217 and is capable of transferring that energy to the fuel long enough to raise the fuel to its ignition temperature.

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*[Handwritten signature]*

DATE *01/28/23*





INCIDENT NARRATIVE

218 After a thorough examination of the room of origin (cockloft space above apartment 217), I have been able to  
219 identify the following potential ignition sources:

- 220 1. Branch circuit wiring located within the cockloft space. These branch circuits could not be ruled out as an  
221 ignition source due to extensive fire damage.
- 222 2. An air conditioning unit mounted on the roof above the east side of apartment 217. The air conditioning  
223 unit had extensive fire damage and could not be ruled out.

224 Other possible ignition sequence theories, alternative hypotheses, and fire spread scenarios have been considered  
225 and evaluated. Information provided by a witness during interviews indicated no candles or other heat producing  
226 appliances or devices were located within the area of origin to act as a potential ignition source. No data was found  
227 to indicate any possible thunderstorms or lightning activity in the area prior to the fire. All other competent ignition  
228 sources were considered and eliminated due to their failure to withstand a valid challenge.

229

230 **EVIDENCE COLLECTED:**

231 No evidence was taken from the scene. The remains of the electrical wiring and electronic devices located within the  
232 east bedroom of apartment 217 were placed on the east side of the bedroom’s closet for examination by other  
233 interested parties.

234

235 **CONCLUSION:**

236 Based upon my scientific and thorough fire scene examination, including forensic fire scene reconstruction, a  
237 thorough and careful fire pattern analysis, information provided by witnesses, video footage, and any other  
238 information made available to me during my scene examination, it is my conclusion that the area of origin is located  
239 within the cockloft space above apartment 217. A specific ignition source was not identified. However, an electrical  
240 event or damage from a recent water leak and repairs performed could not be ruled out. The first material ignited  
241 within the area of origin is undetermined.

242 Using these elements of fire cause, the cause of the fire is classified as “Undetermined.”

243 These findings and conclusions were based on and within a reasonable degree of accepted fire science and  
244 investigation certainty. This report was generated considering the information available at the time of its completion.  
245 The knowledge, skill, experience, and training of the investigator associated with this investigation were used in the  
246 rendering of the findings and conclusions. This investigator and MDRF reserve the right to amend this report if  
247 additional information or evidence becomes available at a later date.

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A	FDID	State	Inc Date	Inc Time	Inc No	Exposure
	01032	FL	2023-01-28	10:28:00	<a href="#">3023903</a>	000 <input type="button" value="v"/>

**Incident Location (from CAD)**

395 NW 177TH ST

Basic     
 Fire     
 Structure     
 INVESTIGATION     
 Apparatus     
 FF Cas.

Addendum

Main      EVIDENCE

001

002

003

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**EVIDENCE/PROPERTY SEIZED**

**Evidence Type:** Attachment

**Attachment Type:** Sketch

Attachment 001: [3023903\\_001\\_sketch\\_3023903 Visio.pdf](#)

**Created By:** Lieutenant STEPHEN M ALEXANDER ( [e76329](#) )

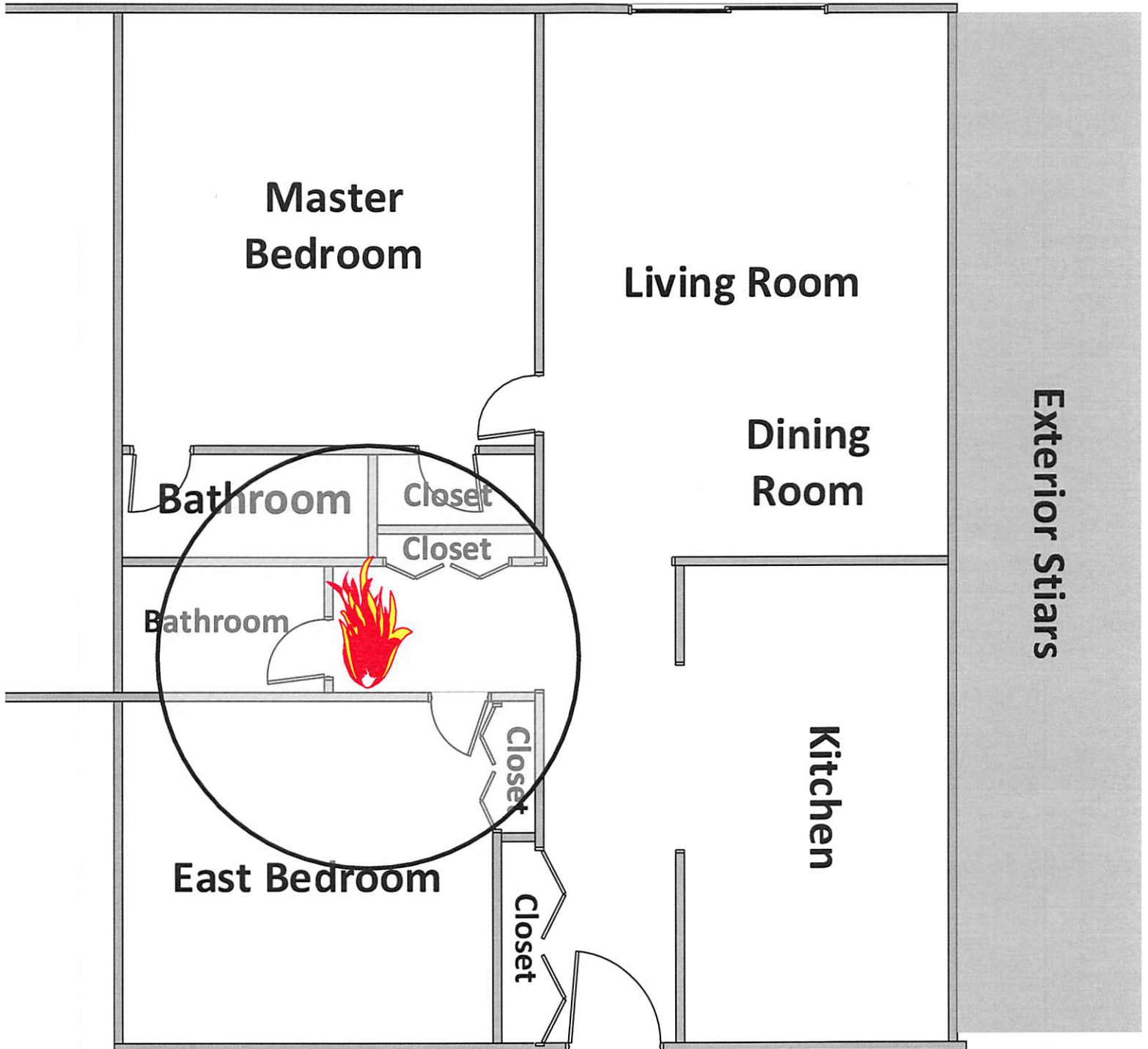
**Date:** 2023-02-23 08:08:22

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*[Signature]*      DATE *02/28/23*

Area of fire origin was determined to be inside the cockloft space above apartment 217. The depiction given here is an approximation as it relates to the apartments floor plan.



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**Apartment 217**

**3023903**

**28JAN23 at 1029**

**395 NW 177 St, Miami Gardens, FL**



Drawing NOT to scale

Lt. S. Alexander (V06)

### INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM MIAMI-DADE FIRE RESCUE

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Main EVIDENCE

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001

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003

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**EVIDENCE/PROPERTY SEIZED**

**Evidence Type:** Attachment

**Attachment Type:** Diagram

Attachment 001: [3023903\\_002\\_diagram\\_3023903 Sat Veiw.jpg](#)

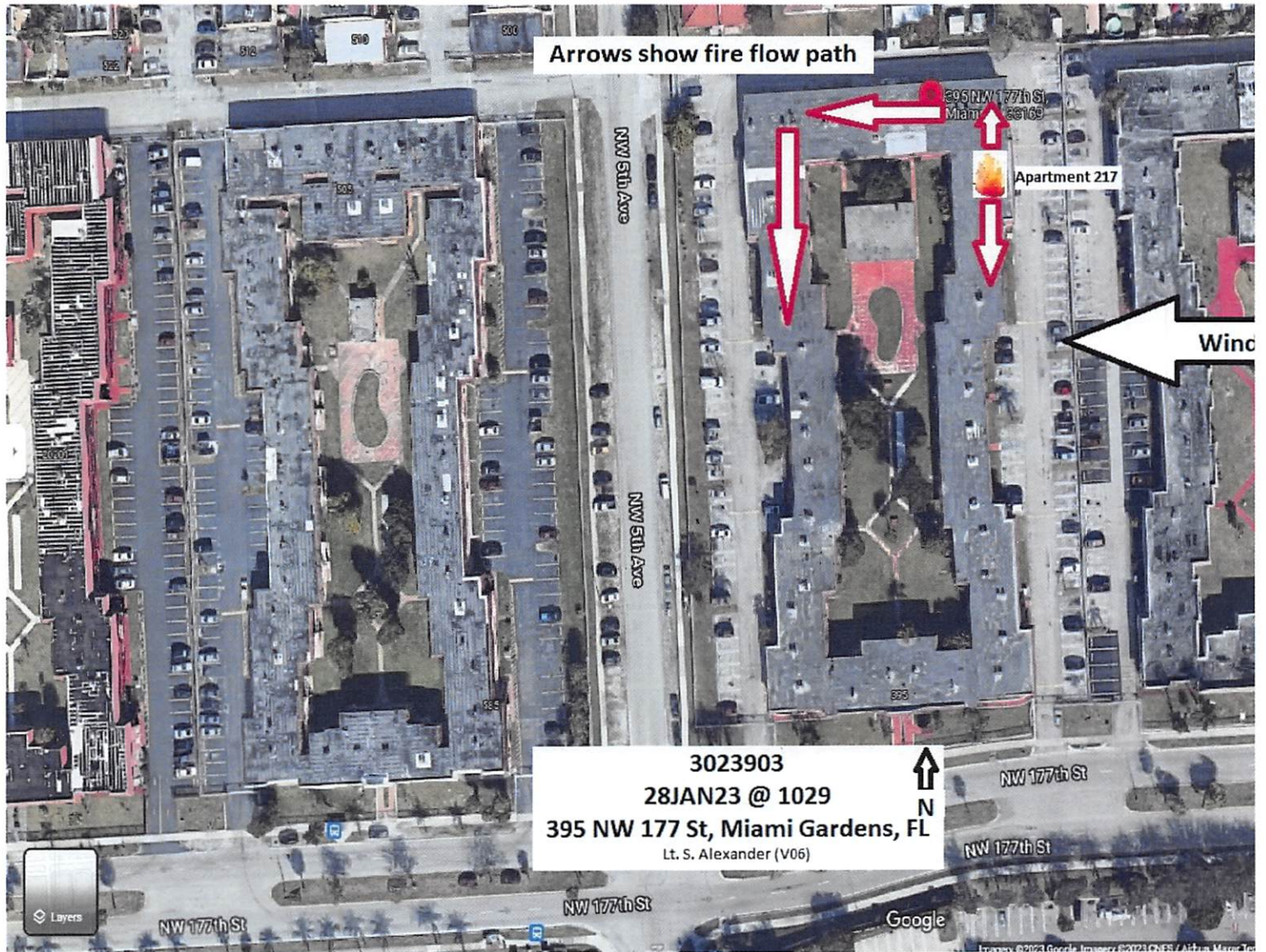
**Created By:** Lieutenant STEPHEN M ALEXANDER ( [e76329](#) )

**Date:** 2023-02-23 08:10:01

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001

002


003

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EVIDENCE/PROPERTY SEIZED	
<b>Evidence Type:</b> Attachment	
<b>Attachment Type:</b> Other	<b>Other, desc:</b> Strikenet Report
Attachment 001: <a href="#">3023903_003_other_STRIKEnet_26149477.pdf</a>	
<b>Created By:</b> Lieutenant STEPHEN M ALEXANDER ( <a href="#">e76329</a> )	<b>Date:</b> 2023-02-23 08:11:56

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Weather Verification Services

# STRIKENet<sup>®</sup> Report

Claim or Reference #	302
Insured/Property Owner	
STRIKENet Report #	26149477
Address	395 NW 177th St Miami, FL 33169
Coordinates	Latitude 25.9382541, Longitude -80.2082095
Search Period	Fri, Jan 27, 2023 23:00 US EST to Sat, Jan 28, 2023 11:00 US EST
Search Radius	10 mi (16 km)
Report Generated	Jan 28, 2023 at 19:18:10 GMT

## Summary

STRIKENet verified there were ZERO cloud-to-ground lightning strokes detected within 10 miles of the property for the dates inquired.

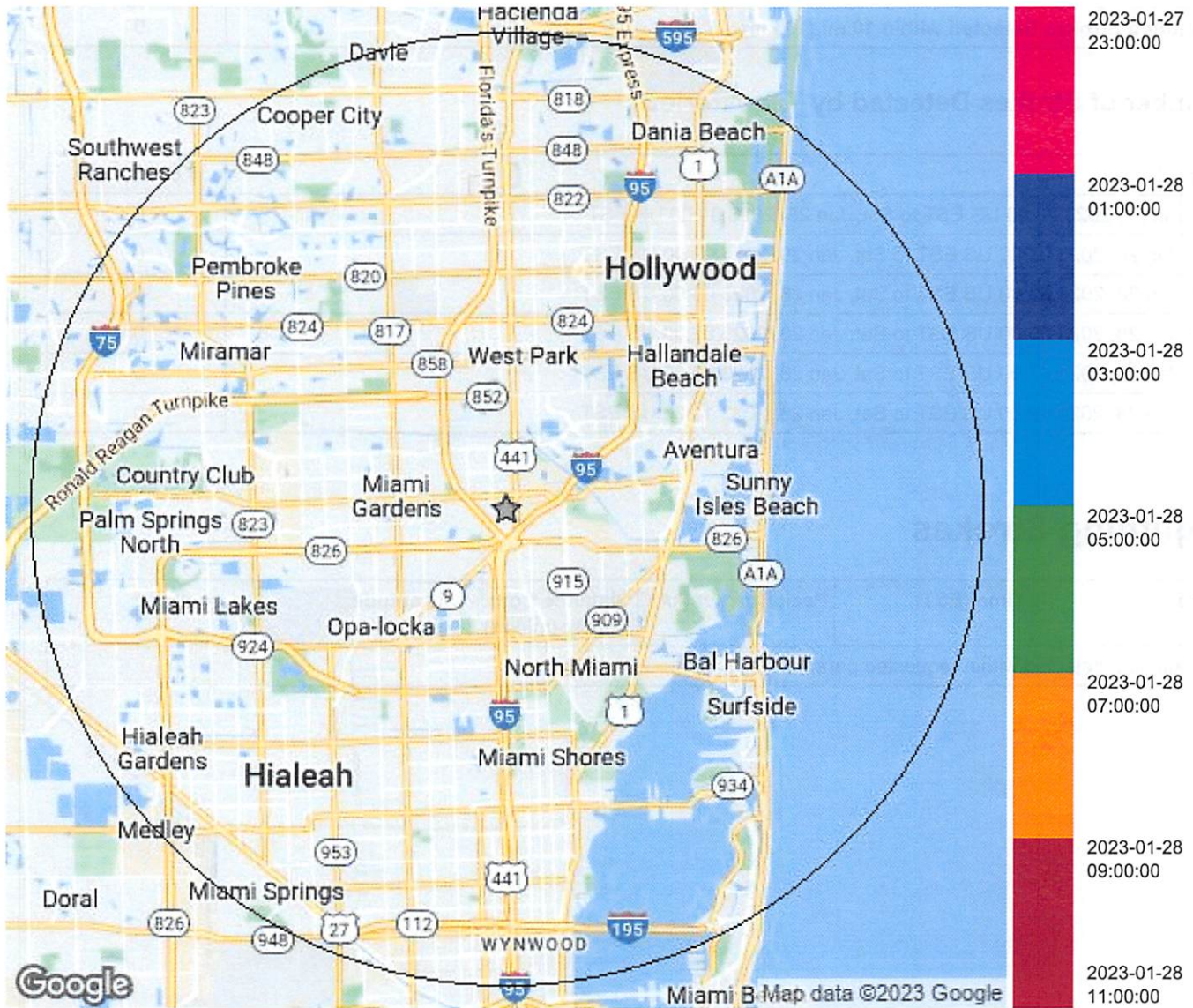
Thank you for using STRIKENet to validate lightning. Your report was generated by CoreLogic using data from Vaisala's National Lightning Detection Network<sup>®</sup> (NLDN), the most comprehensive lightning strike archive database in North America.

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# Confidence Ellipses For Lightning Strokes



Lightning Confidence Ellipse Map indicates with 99% certainty that the recorded lightning event contacted the ground within the bounds of the ellipse.

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## Key Results

Lightning Strokes Detected within 10 mi (16 km)	0
---	---

## Number of Strokes Detected by Time Period

Period	# of Strokes
Fri, Jan 27, 2023 23:00 US EST to Sat, Jan 28, 2023 01:00 US EST	0
Sat, Jan 28, 2023 01:00 US EST to Sat, Jan 28, 2023 03:00 US EST	0
Sat, Jan 28, 2023 03:00 US EST to Sat, Jan 28, 2023 05:00 US EST	0
Sat, Jan 28, 2023 05:00 US EST to Sat, Jan 28, 2023 07:00 US EST	0
Sat, Jan 28, 2023 07:00 US EST to Sat, Jan 28, 2023 09:00 US EST	0
Sat, Jan 28, 2023 09:00 US EST to Sat, Jan 28, 2023 11:00 US EST	0

## Lightning Strokes

Date	Time (EST)	Peak Current (kA)	Distance from Center (mi/km)	Latitude	Longitude
No lightning detected within requested parameters.					

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 MIAMI-DADE COUNTY  
 FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT  
 100 N.W. 41 STREET  
 MIAMI, FLORIDA 33178-2414



DATE *02/08/23*  


## About STRIKENet®

Unlike other lightning verification methodologies, The STRIKENet Report uses 25-plus years of lightning data acquired from the U.S. National Lightning Detection Network® (NLDN) and the Canadian Lightning Detection Network (CLDN). First introduced by Vaisala, Inc. in 1989 and later enhanced by the 2014 CoreLogic acquisition of Weather Fusion—a value-added reseller of Vaisala’s STRIKENet® Report—the lightning verification data that powers the STRIKENet Reports is industry-recognized as the standard for accuracy based on thousands of peer-reviewed citations.

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*en* DATE *02/28/23*

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