



ATF News

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INVESTIGATORS CONCLUDE ON-SCENE INVESTIGATION AT W.VA. APARTMENT BUILDING FIRE

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. – Special Agent in Charge Paul J. Vido of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Chief Greg Fuller of the Huntington Fire Department (HFD), and Fire Marshal Sterling Lewis, Jr. of the West Virginia State Fire Marshal’s Office (WVFM) jointly announced today that the on-scene origin and cause investigation into the Jan. 13 Emmons apartment building fire is complete.

A team of investigators from ATF, HFD, WVFM, and the Huntington Police Department completed the on-scene investigation late this afternoon. Investigators have determined that the fire originated inside apartment number 103 and the cause is “undetermined” at this time. Investigators made a thorough examination of the area of origin and eliminated the electrical, natural gas, and heating systems in that area as potential causes of the fire. The investigation will continue, but there is no evidence to indicate at this time that the fire was intentionally set.

“Although we have finished our work at the scene, the investigation into the cause of this fire is not complete,” Vido said. “Our scene investigation has not revealed that this fire was intentionally set, but we have additional investigative leads that we must complete before we can make a final determination of the cause.”

After personally examining the fire scene and conferring with investigators, Fuller said, “We are confident that there was no methamphetamine laboratory in the apartment where the fire originated. Federal, state, and local investigators combined their efforts, expertise, and resources to conduct this investigation. We are thankful for everyone’s assistance and also thankful for the support of Gov. Joe Machin and Huntington’s Mayor David Felinton.”

ATF is the federal agency with jurisdiction for investigating major fires and crimes of arson. More information on ATF and its programs is a www.atf.gov.

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