

U.S. Department of Justice  
 Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

## Report of Investigation

Title of investigation: Cedar Riverside Fire	Investigation Number: 778065-14-0020	Report Number: 1
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### SUMMARY OF EVENT:

**Cedar Riverside Fire:** On January 1, 2014, an explosion and fire occurred at 516 Cedar Avenue South in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The explosion and fire resulted in 14 injuries, 6 of them critical and 3 fatalities. The damage to the structure is estimated at \$1,500,000.00.

### NARRATIVE:

- On January 1, 2014 at approximately 0816 hours, an explosion occurred at 516 Cedar Avenue South in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The explosion resulted in a large fire occurring in the structure. The structure consisted of a grocery store located at ground level and apartments located above the grocery store. Additionally, a mosque was located next door to the affected structure.
- The ensuing fire resulted in occupants of the apartment jumping out their windows to the ground below. Fourteen (14) occupants were injured during the fire with six (6) of them critically injured. The fire resulted in the complete destruction of the building. After suppression activities were completed, fire officials recovered two (2) bodies from the building. A third victim died several days after the fire as a result of injuries sustained during the fire.
- Investigators were not permitted to enter into the structure on January 1, 2014 due to the fire continuing to burn.
- On January 2, 2014, ATF was in contact with the Minnesota State Fire Marshal's Office regarding the fire. Additional ATF personnel were also in contact with members of the Minneapolis Police Department. Plans were made to assist with a scene examination on January 3, once the bodies were recovered and the structural integrity was examined.
- ATF personnel made plans to be at the scene of the fire on the morning of January 3 in an effort to determine the cause of the explosion and ensuing fire. ATF personnel were notified on the afternoon of January 2 that the City of Minneapolis was intending on tearing down the structure prior to a scene examination taking place. They believed the fire was related to a natural gas leak in the building. The building was torn down and was then turned over to insurance representatives.

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