

## Fire Fighter Line of Duty Death Investigation Report

**State Fire Marshal (KSFM) Associated Case #: 34334**

**Report Submitted by Investigators:**

*KSFM Chief of Investigations, Rose Rozmiarek, CFM, CFEI, IAAI-CFI*

*Overland Park Fire Dept. Fire Marshal, Mark Sweany, CFI*

<b><u>Date of Occurrence:</u></b> 5/22/2010	<b><u>Investigation Date:</u></b> 5/22/2010 thru 5/24/2010	<b><u>Report Date:</u></b> 6/17/2010
<b><u>Incident Address:</u></b> 13408 W. 75 <sup>th</sup> Ct, Shawnee, Johnson County, Kansas		

**Summary:**

While conducting an active interior search for victims in an active residential house fire, Fire Fighter John Glaser succumbed to toxic gases and lack of adequate oxygen resulting in his death. The death is ruled accidental in nature.

**Victim:**

John Bradford Glaser

DOB: 10/07/1976, White male, Height: 5'9", Weight: 180

Fire Fighter; 6 year veteran of the Shawnee, KS Fire Dept.

Special Assignments: Hazardous Materials Unit, Water Rescue Unit

**Information:**

On May 22, 2010 at approximately 20:50 hours, the City of Shawnee Fire Department was called to an automatic fire alarm at 13408 W. 75<sup>th</sup> Ct, Shawnee, KS. The call was upgraded to an actual fire scene with flames coming from the garage area. Units arrived at approximately 20:58 hours. 911 callers reported that the residents were home, along with their animals. Fire suppression operations were being conducted towards the side and rear of the structure in the lower garage area. FF Glaser was assigned to assist in the search operations. The search operations entered through the front door. FF Glaser was in the front of the search line. The crew took a dry hose line with them. They proceeded in the front door and went down the hallway on the main level. They located a dog in the utility room and brought it outside, (*note: the dog did survive*). The search crew went back into the structure to look for more victims. The dry hose line was left in the house and the crew followed it back into the structure to continue the search where they left off. As they progressed down the hose line Glaser's partner heard Glaser ask for help. His partner then tried to reach out for him but the two became separated. A mayday was announced. A search began and Glaser was located in the master bathroom. Glaser was brought out of the structure and turned over to medical personnel. Resuscitation efforts began but Glaser was pronounced dead at the hospital. There were no human victims located in the structure.

The Overland Park, Kansas Fire Department was requested to assume command of the scene. The Eastern Kansas Multi County Task Force was activated to investigate the cause of the fire and the fire fighter fatality.

**Scene Security:**

The scene was secured by members of the Shawnee, KS Police Dept. from the time of the first arriving units until the scene investigation was concluded on May 24, 2010 at approximately 18:00 hours.

Permission to search was initially given from the home owner. It was determined by the investigation team that a Search Warrant should be applied for, which was granted. All items seized were documented along with the chain of custody, and secured at the Shawnee, Kansas Police Department's evidence room.

### Conclusion:

*The conclusion is based on several factors which include the following:*

- *Preliminary Coroner's report*
- *Scene Interviews*
- *Suppression Crew Interviews*
- *Evidence found at the scene*
- *Origin and Cause Investigation*

### Facts noted:

- FF Glaser and his crew were assigned to man a station for the Overland Park Fire Dept. and they ran approximately 3 calls prior to returning to their home station. Their home station had a large call load on this day to include a drowning.
- FF Glaser ate two large meals the day of the incident. Lunch was eaten around 13:00 hours @ Wyandotte BBQ in Overland Park while filling in at Overland Park Station One. Glaser went back to his home station later in the day. The evening meal consisted of hamburgers, hotdogs, brats etc. This reportedly occurred around 17:00 hours.
- The autopsy showed a large amount of food still in the stomach.
- FF Glaser was assigned to search the home @ 13408 W 75<sup>th</sup> Court. He exerted himself by first rescuing a dog. Then returning to continue to search for the occupant of the home which was reported to possibly still be in the home.
- It is unknown why or how FF Glaser became separated from his partner during search efforts.
- FF Glaser vomited in his face piece causing him to try and fix the issue.

- FF Glaser removed his gloves, helmet, and face piece.
- FF Glaser pulled his nose cup from the face piece trying to clear the vomit.
- FF Glaser became disoriented and overcome by the products of combustion in the air around him.
- Vomit was found in Glaser's nose cup, inside his face piece, and on the hood he wore.
- The autopsy report showed vomit in the airway.
- Glaser's gloves, helmet, and nose cup from his face piece were found in the bathroom of the first floor master bedroom.
- FF Glaser was located in the first floor master bathroom, off the master bedroom, next to his helmet, gloves, and nose cup.
- FF Glaser did not have his face piece on when he was rescued.
- FF Glaser did have a radio that was in the on position and on the proper tactical channel.
- FF Glaser's pass device was activated when he was found in the home.
- FF Glaser's SCBA unit appeared to be in working order and still had 3000 psi of air (*the bottle is a 4500 psi unit*). The system and air is being sent for further testing.

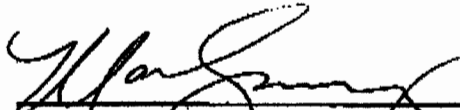
The findings based on the evidence, statements, and facts, is that FF Glaser vomited in his face piece; this caused him to take corrective actions by removing his face piece in an attempt clear it, thus allowing him to utilize his SCBA. In turn, Glaser inhaled toxic gases from the products of combustion that were in the air around him. This caused FF Glaser to become disoriented before he could get his face mask back in place; he then collapsed due to the levels of toxins in his system, causing his death.

Other than the products of combustion released from the fire; none of the associated activities that includes the fire, building construction, or fire suppression directly cause the resulted fatality.

**Disposition:**

***This investigation is closed. Copies of all related information and reports will be forwarded to the City of Shawnee as well as to NIOSH for completion of their investigative report of the fire fighter fatality.***

**All reports, documents, photographs, and other media will be kept at the Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office as the main file. All evidence collected will be held by the Shawnee Police Dept. until released or transferred.**

 6-29-10  
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Mark Sweany, Fire Marshal, Overland Park Fire Dept.

 June 17, 2010  
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Rose Rozmiarek, Chief of Investigations, KS State Fire Marshal's Office