



City of Monroe Fire Department  
75 Scott St. Monroe MI 48161 734-241-1626  
Fire Chief Robert Wight



# PRESS RELEASE

**Date:** 12/19/2018

**Monroe FD Case #: 2018-3765**

**Incident: Fire Investigation Conclusion at 611 N Telegraph, Monroe MI - Nortel Lanes**

**Media Contact:**

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Fire Chief  
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The City of Monroe Fire Department, with the assistance of the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and the Michigan State Police (MSP), has concluded the cause of the December 5<sup>th</sup> fire that destroyed 611 North Telegraph Road (Nortel Lanes Bowling Alley) to be undetermined.

Lieutenant Thomas Ford of the Monroe Fire Department, in cooperation with ATF and MSP Fire Inspectors, led the investigation into the possible cause and origin of blaze which destroyed the 66,000 square foot complex and presented a combined \$8 million loss.

The team investigation, which began December 6<sup>th</sup>, consisted of employee and witness interviews, canvassing of local businesses to obtain video surveillance footage, and gathering information/points of data prior to the fire.

It is the combined opinion of the Monroe Fire Department, ATF, MSP, Private Insurance Investigator and Insurance Engineers, that the exact cause and origin could not be established due to the massive destruction by the fire. Employee and witness accounts, as well as video evidence from inside and outside the bowling alley, corroborated the investigation's findings.

The Monroe Fire Department would like to thank the following agencies:

- ATF for sending two Fire Investigators,
- MSP for the assistance of their Fire Investigator and use of their drone,
- Fremont Insurance for their quick response from their Private Investigators and Engineers,
- On the Go Party Store, Monroe County Community Credit Union, and also the employees and owners of North Tel Lanes.

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*"The mission of the Monroe Fire Department is to protect life and property while minimizing suffering and damage due to fire, medical and environmental emergencies. We are dedicated to protecting the lives and property of the citizens of the City of Monroe through public education, code enforcement and incident management."*

Fire Chief Robert Wight: "I would first like to thank all those that came out to help with this investigation. As we anticipated, the intense damage from this fire made it very difficult to determine the exact cause. The investigation team spent several days long digging through the debris to isolate a cause and origin but were unable to find anything definitive at this time."

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