

## Main Street Fire – Austin, MN

January 15, 2009

15:40

Clear Skies      15 below zero

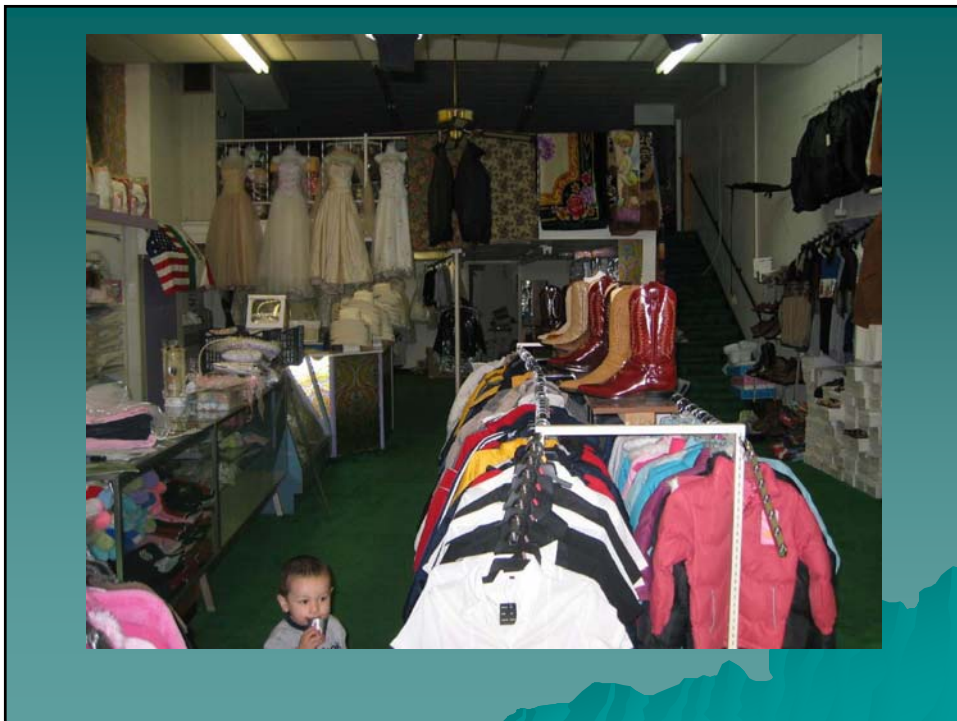
## Austin Fire Department

Combination Department

10 fulltime

20 paid on call

Four on duty





## Type III Ordinary Construction

Lumber yard enclosed by four brick walls. ( Brannigan )

Built in 1880's.

No Alarm System.

No Sprinkler System.

Not Occupied at time of fire.

For Sale.

# Mutual Aid Response

Brownsdale  
Rose Creek  
Blooming Prairie  
Albert Lea  
Deputy State Fire Marshal

75 Firefighters



## Other Resources

Austin Utilities  
Austin Police  
City of Austin – Streets  
Private Contractor  
American Red Cross  
Salvation Army



## Defensive Operation

Empty lot is not worth a firefighters life.

Occupied structure equals an aggressive attack, a vacant building seldom does.





## Strategy

Prevent the fire from spreading.

Confine the fire to building of origin.  
*Confine the fire to the block of origin.*

Extinguish the Fire.

## Divide & Conquer

Big Fire = Big Water

No Interior Operations

No one on the Roof

Protect Exposures



# Investigation



**received**  
4-22-09

**Minnesota Pollution Control Agency**  
Rochester Office

April 2, 2009

The Honorable Thomas Stiehm  
Mayor, City of Austin  
500 Fourth Avenue Northeast  
Austin, MN 55912

RE: Notice of Violation - 400 Block North Main Street, Austin, Minnesota


Dear Mayor Stiehm:

Enclosed is a Notice of Violation (NOV) issued by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to the city of Austin (Regulated Party) for alleged violations of Minnesota Air Quality Rules regarding the Regulated Party's response to the fire at the 400 Block North Main Street, Austin, Minnesota. By sending this NOV, the MPCA is notifying the Regulated Party of alleged violations that the MPCA staff discovered during an inspection on January 21, 2009. This NOV also provides the Regulated Party an opportunity to respond to the alleged violations.

The first section of the NOV cites the rules and regulations that the MPCA alleges that the Regulated Party violated and describes the actions or omissions constituting the violations. The second section, titled "Corrective Action" contains corrective actions that the Regulated Party is to complete in order to resolve the NOV.

Please note, the Corrective Action section contains dates by which the actions should be completed. Please also note, if the Regulated Party believes the allegations in this NOV are incorrect, the MPCA requests a written response within ten days.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 507-296-2601.

Sincerely,  
  
 Cory Block  
 Pollution Control Specialist  
 Policy, Local Government Assistance and Solid Waste Section  
 Municipal Division

CB:cme  
 Enclosure

cc: Ann Coben, Attorney General's Office (w/enclosure)  
 Heidi Kroening, MPCA (w/enclosure)  
 Scott Parr, MPCA (w/enclosure)  
 Enforcement Data Coordinator, MPCA (w/enclosure)

18 Wood Lake Drive SE | Rochester, MN 55904 | 507-283-7343 | 800-657-3864 | www.pca.state.mn.us

## A Clue



## Flame Spread





Everyone goes home!

