

On Friday, March 25' 2016, at approximately 1:00pm, the Wadena County Sheriff's Office received a report of a multiple structure fire located in section 10 of Thomastown Township. It was reported that two sheds along with a mobile home were on fire. Upon the arrival of Emergency Personnel, it was found that the owner of the property, Steven Lee Scribner, age 60, of rural Staples, had been burning garbage in multiple barrels on the property when a gust of wind blew paper that was on fire, out of the barrel and into the long grass. Scribner attempted to extinguish the flames himself, but it quickly grew out of his control igniting and destroying multiple outbuildings, equipment, vehicles and a mobile home that was being used as storage. Staples Fire Department, Verndale Fire Department, MNDNR Forestry and Law Enforcement, MN State Patrol, and the Wadena County Sheriff's Office all responded to this incident.