

# ***SPFD Assessment of Unsheltered Homeless Encampments***



## Kellogg Mall Encampment

**Location:** Kellogg (between Wabasha and Minnesota)

<b>Estimated number of occupants</b>	36
<b>SPFD Fire Calls</b>	15
<b>SPFD Medical Calls</b>	25
<b>Fire Hazards:</b>	

- On 11/19/2020 the Saint Paul Fire Department (SPFD) responded to a tent fire at this encampment. No injuries, but tent is completely consumed. Ignition source is thought to be a 'flammable substance' used to heat the tent.
- On 11/25/2020 the SPFD responded to a complaint about fire at this encampment. Person experiencing homelessness admits to burning wood and debris for heat. SPFD extinguishes fire.
- On 12/2/2020 SPFD investigation and command staff inspected the encampment per DSI's request (photos attached). These experts determined that the proximity of the tents, evidence of recent fires, observed materials used in unsafe heating practices, debris littering the area, and the very materials the shelters are made of could pose a significant risk in this encampment.
- Multiple examples of previous or active fires including fire pits, converted charcoal or gas grills, propane tanks in and around tents. Evidence of fires being used for heat source and cooking.
- Excessively heavy content load and an overall lack of proper spacing between highly flammable tent/shelter materials.





## Lake Phalen Encampments

**Location:** 4 sites around Lake Phalen city park

**Estimated number of occupants**

12

**SPFD Fire Calls**

1

**SPFD Medical Calls**

2

**Fire Hazards:**

- Multiple examples of previous or active fires including fire pits, converted charcoal or gas grills, propane tanks in and around tents. Evidence of fires being used for heat source and cooking.
- Modified stovepipes extending from the roofs of several shelters with active heat and smoke venting.
- Excessively heavy content load and an overall lack of proper spacing between highly flammable tent/shelter materials.





## Ramsey County Compost Site

**Location:** 1150 Sims Ave., near the intersection of Frank and Sims

**Estimated number of occupants** 20

**SPFD Fire Calls** 1

**SPFD Medical Calls** 0

**Fire Hazards:**

- Multiple examples of previous or active fires including fire pits, converted charcoal or gas grills, numerous 20# and 1# propane tanks in and around tents. Evidence of fires being used for heat source and cooking.
- Modified stovepipe extending from the roof of the shelters with active heat and smoke venting
- Generator being utilized at the West end location with extension cords running into several shelters
- Excessively heavy content load and an overall lack of proper spacing between highly flammable tent/shelter materials.





## Mounds Blvd Encampment

**Location:** East 7<sup>th</sup> and Mounds Blvd

**Estimated number of occupants**

18

**SPFD Fire Calls**

5

**SPFD Medical Calls**

12

**Fire Hazards:**

- Multiple examples of previous or active fires including fire pits, converted charcoal or gas grills, propane tanks in and around tents. Evidence of fires being used for heat source and cooking.
- Heavy debris and content load, close proximity to highly flammable materials and open flame sources deem this a highly susceptible area for fire incidents to occur.



## Mechanic Avenue Encampment

**1471 Mechanic Ave**

**Estimated number of occupants**

6

**SPFD Fire Calls**

0

**SPFD Medical Calls**

0

**Fire Hazards:**

- Multiple examples of previous or active fires including fire pits, converted charcoal or gas grills, numerous 20# and 1# propane tanks in and around tents. Evidence of fires being used for heat source and cooking.
- Excessively heavy debris and garbage content load and an overall lack of proper spacing between highly flammable tent/shelter materials were noted at this site.





## Snelling and Concordia Encampment

**Location:** Intersection of Snelling and Concordia

**Estimated number of occupants**

9

**SPFD Fire Calls**

0

**SPFD Medical Calls**

11

**Fire Hazards:**

- Multiple examples of previous or active fires including fire pits, converted charcoal or gas grills, numerous 20# and 1# propane cylinders present. Gas cans and converted charcoal or gas grills around tents with evidence of fires being used for heat source and cooking.
- Excessively heavy debris and garbage content load and an overall lack of proper spacing between highly flammable tent/shelter materials were noted at this site.
- Heavy debris and content load, close proximity to highly flammable materials and open flame sources deem this a highly susceptible area for fire incidents to occur.





## Iris Park Encampment

**Location:** Iris Park- 1884 University Ave

**Estimated number of occupants**

**5**

**SPFD Fire Calls**

**0**

**SPFD Medical Calls**

**0**

**Fire Hazards:**

- Tents in these two clusters are very close together. Essentially each is one unit with a common area covered with tarps.
- Multiple examples of previous fires and propane tanks (#1 propane cylinder and 1-gallon plastic gas cans were noted) in and around tents. Evidence of fires being used for heat source and cooking.
- Excessively heavy debris and garbage content load and an overall lack of proper spacing between highly flammable tent/shelter materials were noted at this site.
- Excessively heavy content load and an overall lack of proper spacing between highly flammable tent/shelter materials.





## Hamline Park Encampment

**Location:** Hamline Park - 1574 Lafond

**Estimated number of occupants** 12

**SPFD Fire Calls** 0

**SPFD Medical Calls** 1

**Fire Hazards:**

- Estimated 8 tents at this location arranged in an “L” along the fenced in tennis court.
- Numerous 20# propane tanks are present
- Excessively heavy debris and garbage content load and an overall lack of proper spacing between highly flammable tent/shelter materials were noted at this site.
- No people present at 1030 on a Wednesday

