

Officers find \$392 from safe at manager's home

By Chris Conley

conley@gomemphis.com

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The Memphis store manager charged with setting a deadly fire to hide his theft from a store safe netted less than \$400, according to federal court documents released Wednesday.

Investigators reported finding \$110 in currency and \$282 in rolled coins during a search of the home of Anthony Paul Shaw, charged with arson resulting in the deaths of two firefighters.

Also discovered in the home were numerous checks made out to Shaw's employer, Family Dollar.

The two Memphis firefighters, Lt. Trent Kirk and Pvt. Charles Zachary, both 39, were trying to save Shaw's life when they were killed by Sunday night's fire at the store at 3732 N. Watkins.

Shaw, 21, was charged with killing the two firefighters in the perpetration of an arson. He could face the death penalty if convicted.

Kirk was trapped when the roof collapsed. Rescuers were unable to extract him for several hours because of the intense heat, and eventually had to knock a hole in the exterior to pull him out.

Kirk died at the scene of extensive burns, according to the Medical Examiner's Office.

Zachary was pulled from the building unconscious. He was resuscitated, but died several hours later at the Regional Medical Center at Memphis of smoke and heat inhalation, a medical examiner's report showed.

The two were part of a rescue team that believed Shaw was inside the building. Four other firefighters inside the building when the roof collapsed were rescued by other firefighters without serious injuries.

Authorities have not said publicly why firefighters thought Shaw was in the building and have not released tapes of 911 calls reporting the fire.

An investigator in the case said Wednesday that a car believed to be Shaw's was outside the store when firefighters arrived.

Shaw, questioned the night of the fire, said he was the last person to leave the store and that he had difficulty closing the safe door because of the large amount of cash inside.

The door was open when found, investigators said. There were several rolls of pennies inside, but no residue of burned cash.

Shaw was questioned again Monday by Fire Department investigators and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms agents and admitted he set the fire to cover up the theft, court records show. Records show Shaw said he set the fire with a cigarette lighter and nail polish remover.

On Tuesday evening, investigators searched 1099 Louisville, where Shaw lived with his grandmother. Earlier in the day, he had told them the money from the store was in a back room of the house, according to the search warrant application.

On Wednesday, agents returned an inventory from the raid to U.S. Magistrate Judge Diane Vescovo. It included an accounting of the cash and checks found.

- Chris Conley: 529-2595