

**ST. FRANCIS FIRE DEPARTMENT**

STATION 121  
3400 E. HOWARD AVE.  
ST. FRANCIS, WISCONSIN 53235  
(414) 483-4424

**NICHOLAS J. POPLAR**

FIRE CHIEF



**MEDIA RELEASE**

<b>INCIDENT DATE</b>	<b>17 AUGUST 2025</b>
<b>MEDIA RELEASE DATE</b>	<b>18 AUGUST 2025</b>
<b>MEDIA RELEASE TIME</b>	<b>FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE</b>

At approximately 8:06 PM on August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025, the St. Francis Fire Department was dispatched to a report of a balcony collapse at 4465 South Whitnall Avenue in the City of St. Francis. The first arriving Fire Department unit reported encountering a collapse of a second-story exterior balcony. Portions of the exterior stairways were also observed as being compromised.

Due to the collapse, four apartment units were without typical means of egress. SFFD personnel removed a total of four occupants and three pets by use of ground ladders. The Milwaukee Fire Department’s Heavy Urban Rescue Team (HURT) was requested to assist with a structural integrity assessment. Upon further investigation, responders observed signs of instability on the two remaining exterior masonry column walls. A collapse zone was established and barricaded.

The incident was referred to the City of St. Francis Building Inspection Department for further inspections and/or orders. The building was turned over to the property management representatives who were advised of our observations and orders. They stated they were already making arrangements for repairs.

The four units impacted by the collapse were ordered condemned until repairs are made. Residents from the remaining fifteen units were not affected. All occupants were accounted for and those displaced reportedly found temporary housing with family and/or friends.

The cause of the collapse is undetermined. The St. Francis Fire Department is not investigating the collapse as it is a building construction and/or building maintenance matter. This incident resulted in zero injuries.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicholas J. Poplar  
Fire Chief





St. Francis Fire Department  
 3400 E. Howard Ave.  
 Saint Francis, WI, 53235  
 Phone# (414) 483-4424 Fax# (414) 483-1117

To: Pollack Apts 19 Unit (Bieck Mgmt) Building  
 4451 S Whitnall Ave, Bldg  
 Saint Francis, WI 53235

insp: 549  
 Tax Key:

**NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS  
 and  
 ORDER TO CORRECT**

Municipality: St. Francis  
 Inspected on: August 20, 2024  
 Inspected by: Keven Stelzel  
 Premises: Pollack Apts 19 Unit  
 4451 S Whitnall Ave, Bldg  
 Saint Francis, WI 53235

Inspection Type: Periodic

**OWNER**

**TENANT/OPERATOR**

**YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT** an inspection by the Bureau of Fire Prevention disclosed violations of the Uniform Fire Code ([State Code Ref] et. seq.) promulgated pursuant to the [State Code Title] ([State Code Ref] et. seq.). The violations are specified on the accompanying "Violations Report" page(s).


**YOU ARE HEREBY ORDERED** by the FIRE OFFICIAL to correct the violations listed on the accompanying "Violations Report" page(s) within the time, or by the date specified. If a re-inspection discloses that violations have not been corrected, and an extension has NOT been requested and granted, you will be subject to penalties of up to \$5,000 per violation per day, or as otherwise authorized by the Act and Bureau Regulations.

IN ADDITION, the ACT imposes liability on the owner for the actual costs of fire suppression where a violation directly or indirectly results in fire.

If you do not understand this order, need assistance, or desire further information, please call the Bureau of Fire Prevention at [Telephone#]

Inspector: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Keven Stelzel, Fire Inspector

By:   
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nicholas Poplar, Fire Chief

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of Owner or Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Printed Name of Owner or Representative

08/20/24  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

APPEAL RIGHTS-EXTENSIONS: See the Violation Correction Reply page to request an extension of time in which to correct violations.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS: Please notify us of any changes to your emergency contacts for this property using our [online form](#)

# Violations

Premises: Pollack Apts 19 Unit  
 Address: 4451 S Whitnall Ave, Bldg  
 Saint Francis, WI 53235

Tax Key:  
 insp: 549

Owner:  
 Address:

Initial Inspected on: 08/20/24  
 Last Inspected on: 08/20/24  
 Initial Inspector: Stelzel, Keven

Mail:

The Violations cited on the above premises are as follows:

Number	Description	Floor	Abate By	U/A	U/A	U/A
4	Location: Basement Category / Nature: Ch 14 Means of Egress / 14.4 Means of Egress Reliability Code Section: Description: Stairway needs to be cleared of obstructions		08/20/24	A  08/20/24		
5	Location: Exterior Category / Nature: Ch 10 General Fire Safety / 10.2 Owner/Occupant Responsibilities Code Section: Description: Set of keys need to be placed in the Knox box		09/04/24			

Key: The numbering of violations is for identification purposes only and shall not be construed as bearing in any way on the seriousness of any violation.

- "U" Unabated - Violation uncorrected
- "A" Abated - Violation corrected
- "W" - Violation is withdrawn
- "R" - Violation is Recommended
- "V" - Void
- "TE" - Time Extension
- \*RV\* denotes recurring violation.