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**Solar Panel Power Cord Cause of Medway House Fire**

MEDWAY – Medway Fire Chief Jeffrey P. Lynch and State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey said the cause of the fire at 6 Samoset Circle in Medway was a solar panel power cord. The fire occurred sometime in the past, but the damage was discovered by the homeowner on September 3, 2020. The fire caused damage to the roof and attic of the home.

The power cord was in direct contact with the asphalt shingles and over time failed, melted into the shingles and heated the plywood of the roof and rafters below. It smoldered over a long period of time before causing the fire. Solar panel power cords should not be in direct contact with roofing materials because of the heat they generate.

The homeowner first noticed the past fire yesterday when investigating the source of a leak in the roof that occurred two weeks ago and notified the fire department. How long the heating process occurred before the fire started cannot be determined. The cord would have been energized during sunlight hours and not during the night.

Chief Lynch said, “This is the second fire we have had in two weeks in Medway from solar panel cords coming in direct contact with the roof. Homeowners with concerns should contact their solar panel installer.”

The Medway Fire Department and State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal jointly investigated the fire.