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Five rescued from apartment complex fire

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Emergency workers rescued five adults early today from a fire at the Brookside Apartments on Willowdale Drive, according to the county's Division of Fire and Rescue Services.

The five residents were in building 124 of the apartment complex, Battalion Chief Mike Crawford said. Two were taken off balconies and three were taken down the stairs.

All were evaluated by emergency medical personnel for smoke inhalation and given checkups, he said. None needed further treatment or hospitalization.

The first call for the fire came out about 7:15 a.m., Sgt. Bruce DeGrange of the Frederick Police Department said.

The blaze was contained to one apartment and extended up into the roof, Crawford said. Firefighters had to cut a hole in the roof to get the fire under control. He believed several other apartments had water and smoke damage.

About 100 firefighters had the fire under control in 15 to 20 minutes, Crawford said. Because of the frigid temperatures, firefighters were rotated in and out of service so they could stay warm.

The fire started in a third-floor apartment when a candle in the living room ignited an artificial plant, fire investigators determined. The blaze spread to a couch, then quickly through the rest of the apartment and to the roof.

Damage to the building and its contents is about \$150,000.



Photo by Bill Green

Firefighters responded to a fire at the Brookside Apartments on Willowdale Drive in Frederick at about 7:15 a.m. Five people were rescued using ladders and the building stairs. Two people were treated at the scene for minor smoke inhalation.

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