

8 People, Including 6 Children, Killed in Ferocious Chicago Fire

A fire on Chicago's West Side early Sunday morning killed eight people, including six children, and critically injured two others, a fire official said.

A passerby saw smoke at the rear of the building around 4 a.m. local time, Chicago Fire Department spokesman Larry Langford said.

A teenager and a young adult are in critical condition with burns and smoke inhalation, Langford said, adding their prognosis was poor.

The victims' names, ages and relationships to each other were not known, Langford said. The youngest killed was an infant.

All victims were on the second floor of the two-story brick building with an attic, Langford said. The first floor was empty and boarded up while the attic was a storage area.

Investigators are probing the fire's origin and cause, Langford said. Officials' preliminary observation showed the fire started on second floor, he said.

The fire was extinguished within 45 minutes, Langford said. Fifteen ambulances were on scene.

The structure was totaled and the fire's heat was so intense that siding on buildings up to 200 feet away melted.

No smoke detectors were heard and none have been found, Langford said.

"Our death count would have definitely been lower or non-

existent if working smoke detectors were in this structure,"
Langford said. {eo}

2018 Religion News Service. All rights reserved.