

Monroe blaze injures 5 people

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MONROE TWP. Fire of unspecified origin damaged four apartments and sent five people to the hospital including one listed Friday in serious condition.

According to Monroe Township Fire Marshal Skip Tomarchio, firefighters were dispatched to the Monroe Towne East Apartments off North Main Street at 10:19 p.m. Thursday.

The fire was brought under control in less than one hour, but fire crews stayed at the scene until 2:05 a.m. Friday.

"Fire companies from Williamstown, Cecil and Washington Township responded as well as four ambulances from Gloucester County and Franklin Township," said Tomarchio. "Our initial reports were that five were injured, but the ambulance squad captain reported one additional person on site with an injured hand who refused treatment. Five were taken to the hospital and one individual in serious condition was flown to Cooper University Hospital."

The charred framework of the building's upper level remained standing above a boarded-up lower level Friday morning and two metal chair frames sat on the blackened front lawn. The property damage firm, allRisk, Inc. from Somerdale worked to assess the damage to the affected units.