

Scottsburg Fire Possibly Caused By Smoke Detector

By Erin Haynes/WLKY

POSTED: 4:46 pm EDT April 20, 2010

UPDATED: 5:36 pm EDT April 20, 2010

SCOTTSBURG, Ind. -- It is intended to warn of fire, alarm may be the cause of a Scottsburg apartment fire.

Officials said the only cause they cannot rule out is "The only source of electricity in there is for a fire

building and it's wired through each storage shed," said The fire alarm was on the outside of a second floor where the fire started Monday morning.

"We saw the smoke rolling out of the breezeway and we went across the street and watched it burn," resident

"Actually, the fire made it through all of the existing fire end of the structure to the other," Richey said.

At the scene, investigators said the firewalls were made of particle board.

The Scott County Building commissioner Lee Gay said the particle board dividers in the attic are smoke separations, which building code requires. Gay said firewalls with a one-hour fire rating, meaning it takes fire an hour to burn through the wall, are required only on common walls between housing units and between storage or laundry areas. The standard is not required above the roof line in this type of building.

"That's really a surprise to me," Richey said. "It would have definitely changed the outcome, obviously firewalls are meant to stop the fire and obviously firewalls are meant to stop the fire and obviously would have been a lot more minimal damage than what we had there."

"We're going to have to start over somewhere else and try to find another home to live at and go on," Wells said.



but investigators said the wiring to a fire electrical.

alarm, that's on the exterior of the Scottsburg Fire Chief James Richey. storage closet. Investigators said that was

said it's on fire, we grabbed the kids and Jennifer Wells said.

walls. There was fire basically from one