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News Release

For Immediate Release

Mt. Vernon house fire cause: child playing with a lighter

Two adults remain hospitalized tonight following a house fire on W. Mount Vernon Street Thursday afternoon. An investigation by Springfield Fire Marshals determined the fire was caused by a child playing with a lighter in the home.

Springfield firefighters were called to the house on the 2000 block of W. Mount Vernon Street at around 2 p.m. Three adults and three children were home when the fire started. Three children and 1 adult made it out of the home without injury. The two other adults escaped the home and were transported to Mercy Hospital with serious burns. The male, age 31, is in critical condition. The female, age 28, is in serious condition. The three children include a 5-year-old girl, 3-year-old boy and 1-year-old boy.

The fire started in a bedroom where the two injured adults were sleeping. The investigation found one of the children was left unattended with a long-stemmed butane lighter and ignited the bedding materials. The fire will be classified as accidental.

No smoke alarm was found in the home. The home suffered moderate fire damage, estimated to be \$40,000.

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For more information, contact Fire Marshal Bill Spence at 417-551-1266