

# 8 Injured in Manhattan Fire

**NEW YORK (AP) - October 25, 2003** — Eight people were injured, two critically, in a fire that swept through a Manhattan building Saturday, drawing tenants to the street as their landlord arrived, the Fire Department said.

The blaze broke out just before 5:30 a.m. on the third floor of a six-story residential building in the Gramercy Park neighborhood, said department spokesman Sean Johnson.

He said the fire spread to the fourth floor.

Two of the injured were taken to New York Weill-Cornell Burn Center with serious burns and smoke inhalation, Johnson said. Five others were hospitalized in stable condition and one person was treated at the scene and released, he said.

About 106 firefighters responded to the blaze, which was brought under control at 6:11 a.m., Johnson said. The cause of the fire was under investigation.

Landlord Steve Croman arrived at the scene at about 7:30 a.m. with a cleanup crew. He declined comment.

Cynthia Roberts, an artist who lives in the next-door building that Croman also owns, said some of Croman's apartments are rent-stabilized and others have been renovated and draw higher rents.

"Some of us live in rent-stabilized apartments, and we've had no heat or hot water for months," Roberts said.

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