




Renovations at fire-damaged Bensalem apartment sparks new fire

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Chloe Elmer/Staff Photographer

Firefighters work the scene of a fire at a townhome in Bensalem at the Thunder Hollow Apartments on Thursday, July 2, 2015.



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said.

The fire was the second at the complex in less than a week. On Sunday another unit was damaged in an accidental kitchen fire that occurred when a microwave oven malfunctioned, Sponheimer said, adding he did not find the fire resulted from problems with the electrical system.

A major fire that started in PECO electric meters seriously damaged 16 apartment units at the complex in February 2014.

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By Jo Ciavaglia Staff writer

Employees at a Bensalem apartment complex working on a kitchen plumbing system Thursday afternoon accidentally set fire to a wall, damaging four units, according to Bensalem's chief fire investigator.

The fire at Thunder Hollow apartments temporarily displaced one resident because the other units — including the one where the fire started — are under renovation after being damaged in a fire last year at the Bristol Road complex, Robert Sponheimer said. No one was injured.

The maintenance workers were sweating pipe in the kitchen of the unoccupied apartment when the wall caught fire around 2 p.m., he said. The complex does not have fire walls, which are cinder block walls that separate apartment units, but it does have fire partitions that extend to the attics located in the middle of apartment unit rows, Sponheimer said.

The fire spread to three apartments, which experienced minor smoke and water damage and one apartment had severe damage and is uninhabitable, Sponheimer said. The one occupied apartment is livable, Sponheimer