

Thursday August 21, 2008 9:54 AM ET



Elderly Woman Perishes In Fire At Home With No Working Smoke Alarms

Wednesday August 20, 2008
CityNews.ca Staff

An elderly woman has died after being caught in a Scarborough house fire Wednesday afternoon. The 92-year-old may have been bedridden and unable to escape the flames.

She was found without vital signs in an upstairs room and was rushed to Scarborough General Hospital, but couldn't be revived.

The two-alarm blaze broke out just before 3pm at 28 Kootenay Crescent, in the Lawrence Avenue and Brimley Road area.

The victim shared the home with another adult and two children, one of whom is reported to be her daughter, a Toronto school teacher. The deceased was the only one in the home at the time.

"We can also mention that there were no working smoke detectors in the house, and we'd like to make sure that the public gets that message out," said District Chief Rick Cooper.

Concerned neighbours looked on as emergency crews raced to the rescue. Many recalled that the family moved in about 4 or 5 years ago but few say they really knew them. They apparently kept to themselves and weren't well known by many.

"I saw that they took a body out, but she was still, you know, she was still alive," said neighbour Sebastian Distefano.

There's no word on the cause of the blaze.