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## 5 dead in Labrador apartment fire

By THE CANADIAN PRESS

HAPPY VALLEY-GOOSE BAY, N.L. — A child and a teenager have died after a blaze tore through an apartment building in central Labrador on the weekend, bringing the death toll to five, police said Monday.

"The two young people that had been airlifted to St. John's unfortunately passed away last evening," RCMP Cpl. Keith MacKinnon said.

The two were a boy and girl, MacKinnon said, adding that officers are still trying to contact the relatives of all of the victims.

The grim development came as a team of investigators tried to determine the cause of the fire, which also killed two adults and another teenager.

"The investigators are still digging through the scene and interviewing witnesses," MacKinnon said.

Another child is being treated for non-life-threatening injuries at Labrador Grenfell Hospital.

The fire began Sunday morning in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, N.L., a town of 7,500.

Police have said alcohol may have played a role in the tragedy.

There were nine people — including four youths ranging in ages from five to 13 — in the home at the time. Four or five of them were permanent residents and the others were visiting, police said.

Two adults and another child managed to escape unharmed.

Fire Chief Carl Oldford said the fire was knocked down quickly, but thick smoke and toxic fumes presented a challenge for firefighters.

"It was quite difficult at first because of the visibility," he said Sunday.

Officials said the complex, which is about 10 years old, is made up of four units, each with its own access to the outside.

Oldford said the rest of the complex was not damaged.