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46 displaced by two fires in Worcester

Official calls blazes suspicious

By **Matt Rocheleau** | GLOBE CORRESPONDENT AUGUST 05, 2012

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Fire officials are investigating two similar and suspicious weekend fires at rooming houses in Worcester that displaced 46 people and destroyed a building constructed more than 120 years ago.

Worcester Deputy Fire Chief Geoffrey Gardell said that a two-alarm fire started on a couch left in the hallway of a rooming house at 115 Pleasant St. just before 5 a.m. Sunday.

A day earlier, just after 5 a.m., a three-alarm fire started on a mattress left in the hallway of a rooming house at 39 Irving St., about two blocks from the Pleasant street building, he said.

“They were very similar types of fires,” Gardell said. “We’re definitely deeming them suspicious.”

No injuries were reported, and no accelerants were found at either fire, he said.

Gardell said 22 tenants were displaced because of Saturday’s

fire. He said that the damage to the 18-room, three-story brick building amounted to a total loss. The building was built in 1890 and is valued at about \$243,000, according to the city assessor's department.

Gardell said 24 tenants were displaced by Sunday's fire, which caused light damage. But water damage throughout the five-story building will probably keep tenants out for another couple of days, he said.

The American Red Cross of Central and Western Massachusetts said in a statement the organization has been aiding those affected by the two fires. The agency has set up a service center at the All Saints Episcopal Church at the corner of Pleasant and Irving streets, where food and other emergency assistance will be offered.

Matt Rocheleau can be reached at matthew.rocheleau@globe.com.

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In this section: Metro

Waltham man dies in car rollover

A Waltham man died Saturday afternoon after the car he was riding in rolled over into a tree off the F.E. Everett Turnpike in Merrimack, N.H., according to authorities.

[READ FULL STORY](#)

STORY 1 OF 15

State Police to help in storm-ravaged N.J.

A contingent of Massachusetts State Police troopers traveled to New Jersey on Saturday to assist authorities in areas ravaged by Hurricane Sandy.

[READ FULL STORY](#)

STORY 2 OF 15



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13 / 11AM - 3PM
SHERATON BOSTON HOTEL
39 DALTON STREET BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

PROFESSIONAL DIVERSITY CAREER FAIR

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Hanover man identified in fatal crash

A 26-year-old Hanover man killed in a car accident Friday on Route 3 in Braintree has been identified as Jeffrey Prouty, according to the Massachusetts State Police Department. Prouty was driving a 2005 BMW 525I southbound on Route 3 before exit 17, when he lost control of the car and went off the shoulder of the road at about 6:47p.m., said a statement from state police.

[READ FULL STORY](#)

STORY 3 OF 15

Boston paramedic had marks on arms, prosecution alleges

A Boston EMS paramedic was arraigned on 73 counts of stealing or tampering with painkillers that were meant for patients.

[READ FULL STORY](#)

STORY 4 OF 15

At 100, changes afoot for Huntington YMCA

The beloved Huntington Avenue branch is at a crossroads as it embarks on its next century, undergoing a major overhaul.

[READ FULL STORY](#)

STORY 5 OF 15

Minority officers win legal round over promotion exams

Minority police officers who say civil service promotional exams are biased won a key victory when the SJC ruled that the state agency that creates the tests could face discrimination lawsuits.

[READ FULL STORY](#)

STORY 6 OF 15

‘Whitey’ Bulger’s trial postponed for second time

The trial of James “Whitey” Bulger has been postponed until June following repeated complaints from his

defense team that it needs more time to prepare.

[READ FULL STORY](#)

STORY 7 OF 15

Pope names auxiliary bishop for Boston

Pope Benedict XVI named Monsignor Robert P. Deeley, one of Cardinal Sean O'Malley's top aides, an auxiliary bishop in the Archdiocese of Boston.

[READ FULL STORY](#)

STORY 8 OF 15

Hanover man killed in car crash

A 26-year-old man from Hanover died Friday night after he crashed his car on Route 3 in Braintree, State Police said. The man's name was not released. Troopers responded to a call for an accident on Route 3 southbound near Exit 17 at 6:47 p.m.

[READ FULL STORY](#)

STORY 9 OF 15

Heroin charges for Hyde Park man stopped for speeding

Massachusetts State Police said they arrested a Hyde Park man carrying more than 6 pounds of heroin in the Jeep Grand Cherokee he was driving Thursday afternoon.

[READ FULL STORY](#)

STORY 10 OF 15

Cape Cod man in court in drug trafficking

Cape Cod man was arraigned Friday arraigned in federal court in Boston on charges that he and his brother were part of a large oxycodone trafficking operation, federal prosecutors said.

[READ FULL STORY](#)

STORY 11 OF 15

Man arrested in Lynn in Puerto Rico slaying

A 19-year-old man wanted on murder charges by authorities in Puerto Rico was arrested Friday in Lynn, the US Marshals Service said. Edgar Serrano is accused of shooting and killing the manager during an attempted robbery of a fast food restaurant in Juncos, Puerto Rico.

[READ FULL STORY](#)

STORY 12 OF 15

Maine may give warmer embrace to Obama health law

Voters may have short-circuited further resistance by initiating a Democratic sweep that flipped control of the State Legislature.

[READ FULL STORY](#)

STORY 13 OF 15

Governor Dannel Malloy says storm aid to Conn. businesses to top Irene

Governor Dannel P. Malloy said Friday that he expects the number of applications from Connecticut businesses and homeowners for federal disaster assistance following Superstorm Sandy to surpass those filed after the remnants of Hurricane Irene hit last year.

[READ FULL STORY](#)

STORY 14 OF 15

New England fishermen, regulators talk fish counts

New England fishermen and scientists met Friday amid an industry crisis in a forum that aimed to shed light on, and air disagreement about, the controversial science of counting fish. Fishermen have long questioned fish population estimates offered by scientists, often because they contradict with what they find at sea. With key stocks struggling and huge projected cuts set to decimate an already limping industry in 2013, the unrest is widespread.

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STORY 15 OF 15

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