

## THE FIRE DAMAGES NEW CONSTRUCTION

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BONNE TERRE — A fire built by construction workers to keep warm Thursday is believed to be the cause of a fire that damaged part of the new construction at the old Bonne Terre Elementary. The fire was dispatched as a first-alarm commercial fire with the Bonne Terre Fire Department as the primary responding department.

“When the workers went to lunch it’s possible that a spark from the fire they had built to keep warm got to the roof and started a fire,” said Bonne Terre Fire Chief John Pratte Sr. “The fire itself wasn’t that big, but we had to remove a 10-foot section of the roof in order to make sure the fire had not spread.”



Pratte said the fire occurred in an apartment unit that was under construction.

The fire was dispatched at 11:48 a.m. Bonne Terre, Farmington, Big River, Desloge, Park Hills and Terre Du Lac responded to the scene.

The property is owned by developer Sharo Shirshekan. Shirshekan is building senior condos on the property which used to be the campus of Bonne Terre Elementary.

Shirshekan renovated the old North County Junior High School building for Bonne Terre to use as its municipal complex. The new complex will house city hall and the police department.