

Retarded flee fire at center

Fire marshals are investigating a blaze that broke out in a first-floor file room in the Willowbrook Developmental Center last night, causing the evacuation of more than 50 patients from the four-story building.

Officials declared the fire suspicious after finding the door leading to the file room ajar and a number of records scattered on the floor and set afire shortly after 11:30.

Residents and personnel evacuated the building before firemen arrived, and the blaze was quickly brought under control. No injuries were reported.

Fire officials said a sprinkler system in the hallway had been activated and kept the flames from spreading to other parts of Building 32.

They said a number of records were destroyed, although damage to the file room was minimal.

Battalion Chief James Thomson and Deputy Chief Warren Haring directed the men from two truck companies and one engine company fighting the blaze.