

Preliminary cause released for Matthew Lane fire

By **Jim Herr** - May 25, 2018



Firefighters fight a living room fire on Matthew Lane the morning of May 24th in Cleveland Hill's Fire District. (Jim Herr/Cheektowaga Chronicle)

CHEEKTOWAGA – Fire investigators with the Cheektowaga Police Department have listed a preliminary cause in Thursday's fire which sent three people to the hospital.

Police say they think careless smoking may have started the fire, but they cannot rule out other factors until they complete their investigation.

An oxygen-dependent resident was sent to Erie County Medical Center for burns and smoke inhalation. Police say the man is talking but is still listed in critical condition.

Condition updates for two other residents who were transported to the hospital for smoke inhalation were not immediately known.

[The fire at 1 Matthew Lane broke out around 6:22 am Thursday.](#) The bulk of the fire was found in a living room addition which was being used as a bedroom for the oxygen-dependent person Cleveland Hill Fire Chief Matthew Chowaniec says.