



Girl, 13, dies as dozens of people are poisoned by carbon monoxide in New Jersey apartment block housing 12 families

- A girl, 13, was killed and dozens of people were poisoned by carbon monoxide
- The leak happened at a 12-unit apartment building in New Jersey on Thursday
- Among the people treated for poisoning at the apartment were 27 police officers
- Officials said several carbon monoxide detectors failed to go off in the building
- Authorities said Thursday's incident is being treated as a criminal investigation

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A 13-year-old girl has died and 41 people were poisoned by carbon monoxide poisoning at a New Jersey apartment building, authorities said.

Three relatives of the girl - a man in his 40s, a 21-year-old woman and a 14-year-old girl all remain in critical condition after the exposure to carbon monoxide in Perth Amboy, New Jersey, on Thursday around 4pm.

Among the 41 people treated for poisoning at the 12-unit apartment building were 27 police officers, which amounts to 20 per cent of the force.

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A 13-year-old girl was killed and dozens of people were poisoned by a carbon monoxide leak at a 12-unit apartment building in Perth Amboy, New Jersey, on Thursday afternoon. Pictured above, fire officials at the scene

Authorities found several people in cardiac arrest when they arrived at the building after receiving a call about an unconscious person.

'We immediately knew it was some sort of toxin,' Perth Amboy Deputy Police Chief Larry Cattano told **NBC New York**.

The entire building had to be evacuated in freezing conditions, and some residents were taken to a building across the street while authorities searched for the leak.

'We proceeded to evacuate the entire building which required them to kick in several doors, there's 12 apartments in the building,' Chief Roman McKeon, Perth Amboy Police told **ABC**.

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Firefighters are investigating the leak and the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office is looking to see if carbon monoxide detectors in the building worked.

Officials said that several detectors failed to go off, adding that it is being treated as a criminal investigation.

'When it's cold, temperatures like this people will use space heaters and alternative methods to stay warm if they're heating systems aren't working,' Perth Amboy Fire Chief Edward Mullen told CBS. 'They're important to have a carbon monoxide alarms and every apartment.'

The city is offering shelter to the residents who were displaced by the poisoning.



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13-year-old girl dies, several others injured by carbon monoxide poisoning in Perth Amboy, New Jersey | abc7ny.com
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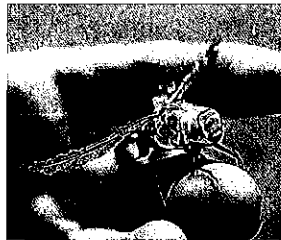
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