

MontBleu fire forces hotel-casino to evacuate

Two people were taken to the hospital Wednesday for smoke inhalation and 200 others evacuated from MontBleu casino in Stateline when a fire erupted in the main kitchen.

The cause of the May 6 blaze is under investigation.

“One of their commercial ovens had a fire and it had about 4-foot-by-8-foot flames coming out of the oven,” Eric Guevin, Tahoe Douglas fire marshal, told *Lake Tahoe News*.

Employees using fire extinguishers were unable to suppress the flames. The fire was contained to the kitchen by Tahoe Douglas, North Tahoe, East Fork and South Lake Tahoe firefighters.

That particular oven is condemned, according to Guevin. The health department will be on scene today.

All of the kitchens at the casino are tied together, with there being one main one and then offshoots for the individual restaurants.

The 200 people who were evacuated about 3:30 Wednesday were allowed back inside the casino and to their rooms within 30 minutes. The elevators were off-limits for about an hour. Casino employees used fans to clear the stairwells and hallways of smoke. Smoke reached the 11th floor.

No one from MontBleu was available for comment.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*