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Blazes in the Bronx and New Jersey Kill Two Children and Three Adults

By TINA KELLEY

Two fires claimed the lives of five people yesterday, including two baby boys in the Bronx and a mother and her parents in Brick, N.J.

The first fire killed William Haskins, 76; his wife, Elizabeth, 72; and their daughter, Kathy Haskins, 39, at their home in Brick. Wade Haskins, the 10-year-old son of Kathy Haskins, reported the fire about 6:15 a.m. after being awakened by the smell of smoke, officials told The Associated Press.

He escaped through a window to a neighbor's house.

An electrical malfunction in the basement ceiling apparently started the fire, E. David Millard, the Ocean County prosecutor, told The Associated Press. The home did not have smoke detectors, he said.

Wade Haskins was being treated for smoke inhalation at the Medical Center of Ocean County in Brick, where he was listed in stable condition last night.

In the Baychester section of the Bronx, a fire broke out at a trailer home at 3411 Edson Avenue around 2:45 p.m., the police said.

Two children inside, a 10-month-old, Daniel Brown, and a 2-year-old, Austin Battles, were taken to Jacobi Medical Center, where they were pronounced dead on arrival, the police said.

Their mother, Brandy Battles, who was at home at the time of the fire, was not injured. According to televised reports, she had stepped outside of the home and was locked out when the fire started.

"She took very good care of them," her husband, Daniel Brown, said of his wife in a television interview. "She would do anything for them."

He said of the children, "They were very cheerful, and always joyful."

The Fire Department said it is investigating the incident as an accident, possibly involving something electrical.

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