

2 DIE AS \$ 10 DEBT LEADS TO ARSON - SUSPECT HELD FOR CHARGES OF MURDER

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Enraged that **a** neighbor stiffed her for **a \$ 10** rock of crack cocaine, **a** 46-year-old Detroit woman left her apartment, bought gasoline, returned home and set fire **to** her building's stairwell, police said Monday.

That single piece of crack now has **a** body count: **A** 3-year-old boy and **a** 19-year-old woman, who died when the blaze raged through the complex, on Merton near Palmer Park.

The targeted drug debtor walked away unscathed.

The suspect is expected **to** be arraigned today on **two** counts of first-degree murder, **as well as** several other felonies, including **arson** and attempted murder for the **two** people who were critically injured in the Sunday fire.

Detroit Police 2nd Deputy Chief James Tate said the crime was **as** senseless **as** they come.

"She did express remorse and said she didn't mean **to** hurt anyone," Tate said Monday. "This is the result of drugs. **A** lot of people complain when our officers go out and arrest someone for what might seem like **a** small amount of drugs, but this is the effect of it."

The **two** victims, Derrick Wilbourn Jr., 3, and Robin Abraham, 19, were found in separate apartments. Derrick's father, 25-year-old Derrick Wilbourn Sr., was upgraded from critical **to** serious condition Monday.

His girlfriend, Jashara Clark, remained in critical condition at Detroit Receiving Hospital. The other critically injured victim is **a** 3-month-old, who is being treated at Children's Hospital of Michigan in Detroit, Tate said.

One-year-old Derica Wilbourn, also Clark and Wilbourn's child, and 7-year-old Acacia Bennett, Clark's daughter from **a** previous relationship, also were treated at the hospital. **A** third adult was in temporary serious condition at Henry Ford Hospital.

Wilbourn's family members gathered at his grandparents' home in Detroit, where Derrick Wilbourn once lived with his young son.

"We're staying strong," said Lakira Wilbourn, Derrick Wilbourn's cousin. "I just can't fathom how you do something like this for crack."

She said her cousin was strongly sedated and didn't yet know that his son didn't survive.

A total of 12 people were taken **to** area hospitals, with injuries ranging from smoke inhalation **to** fractured bones.

Police said the suspect lived in the 46-unit complex.

Before she confessed, she was questioned three times and was implicated by some of her neighbors, Tate said.

The woman allegedly had started smaller retaliatory fires in the past. Those were minor, however, and neighbors did not notify the Fire Department or police.

Sunday's blaze was reported about 6:30 **a** .m. By the time firefighters arrived, flames were shooting out of the apartments' windows. At least one man reportedly escaped the building by jumping from **a** window.

Tate said fire officials immediately suspected **arson** . Trained dogs tracked the scent of an accelerant, while the blaze's pattern in the stairwell indicated it was intentionally ignited.

"I tell you something: Satan is busy, and he'll use whomever he will," said one neighbor, who refused **to** give her name for fear of retaliation.

"What **a** useless loss of life. There are sick people out there."

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