

# DAILY NEWS

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## Confluence of dangers laid six low

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**A clogged chimney, an overworked boiler and a partially constructed dormer produced the carbon monoxide fumes that nearly killed six people in Elmont Monday, a KeySpan spokesman said yesterday.**

"There was a partial blockage in the base of the chimney, maybe from outside debris," said the spokesman, Ed Yutkowitz. And the natural-gas-powered boiler "was undersized ... and was probably working nonstop."

Additionally, the dormer under construction apparently had blocked the chimney's venting, Yutkowitz said.

Four of the six victims who narrowly escaped being killed by the lethal carbon monoxide fumes continued to undergo intensive treatment at a Nassau hospital, officials said.

The three adults, including a pregnant woman, and a young boy were being treated in Nassau University Medical Center's hyperbaric chamber.

Margally Registre and her husband, Bernard, both 41, remained in critical condition while their son, Christopher, 7, was in critical but stable condition, said hospital spokeswoman Shelley Lotenberg.

Members of another family living in the Elmont home - Cassen Hicks, 29, who is pregnant, and her two children Soroya, 7 and Jordan, 2 - also were admitted to Nassau University Medical Center in East Meadow. Hicks' condition was listed as guarded, Soroya's as satisfactory and Jordan's as critical but stable.

"The fetus appears to be okay," Lotenberg said.

The Registres were found unconscious in their basement apartment by a relative, Reginald Paul, who owned the one-

story home at 115 Louis Ave. Hicks and her children, also overcome by fumes, later were found in their ground-floor apartment.

All the adults inhaled extremely high levels of carbon monoxide, as did Christopher Registre.

"They were chronic from exposure over a long period of time," said Glenn Butler, technical director of Nassau University Medical Center's hyperbaric chamber.

Butler said the four more serious victims had "carbon monoxide not just in their blood, but in their tissue," which is a more significant problem.

Donna Hangan, a nurse manager at Nassau University Medical Center hyperbaric chamber, said carbon monoxide is perfidious because it is colorless and odorless and causes flu-like symptoms. Carbon monoxide causes long-term neurological effects, such as memory loss and tremors.

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