

City's No. 2 cop leads South Side fire rescue

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One of the city's top cops was slightly injured Saturday afternoon when he ran into a burning South Side building and helped rescue three people.

First Deputy Police Supt. Dana Starks and another police officer, James Mitidiero, were near 98rd Street and Cottage Grove Avenue checking up on gun turn-ins at nearby churches when they saw the smoke and were alerted about the two-alarm blaze by a teenager, Chicago



Dana Starks

Police spokeswoman Monique Bond said.

Both went inside and found three people — two

men and a woman, all in their 40s — and escorted them out to safety, Bond said.

Starks and Mitidiero were taken to St. Francis Hospital and Health Center in Blue Island, where they were treated for smoke inhalation.

"I'm feeling great," Starks said after his release later Saturday. "I'm going to go home and rest."

The 2 p.m. fire, according to officials, engulfed the two-story building, which has commercial space on the first floor as well as apartment units throughout.

There were no other injuries.



Firefighters battle a blaze Saturday in the 9300 block of Cottage Grove. Starks and Officer James Mitidiero were treated for smoke inhalation after leading people to safety. SCOTT STEWART/SUN-TIMES

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