

Noon-Hour Fire Spreads From Christmas Tree

Heavy damage to the upper part of Guigues Separate School was caused at 1 p.m. today when fire broke out in a Christmas tree in an upper floor classroom located on the northwest side of the building.

Some 20 to 25 children and 10 teachers in the building had no difficulty in getting out.

Rev. Brother Lucien said that he was in an upper hallway when one of the youngsters came racing up to him to tell him that a large Christmas tree was on fire in the classroom just down the hall.

Brother Lucien rushed to the scene of the blaze and attempted to extinguish the fire by smothering the flames with his coat. When he found he was unable to do so, he secured a fire extinguisher but by this time the fire had spread to the ceiling, walls and floor of the room.

Firefighters who answered the two-alarm outbreak appeared to have the fire under control by 1.30 p.m. Older students of the city's largest Separate School were allowed to enter the lower floors in an effort to save such equipment as could be carried out.

At least four classrooms were destroyed and much of the roof had collapsed by 1.30.

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