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Damage by squirrels caused Troy hotel fire alarm, evacuation

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After smoke was reported over the weekend in a building attached to a four-story hotel in Troy, firefighters discovered that squirrels were to blame for shorting an electrical circuit, officials reported.

A caller at 8:12 a.m. on Saturday, June 18, told authorities that smoke was coming from the attic of a one-story pool building attached to the Homewood Suites, which is located at 1495 Equity Drive, near West Maple Road in Troy.

The alarm at the hotel was activated and arriving firefighters confirmed smoke in the attic. Occupants at the hotel were evacuated until the investigation was complete.

Later, responders discovered that a ventilation unit overheated and created the smoke.

Lights at the hotel were also reported to be flickering. DTE Energy representatives called to respond found that squirrels had shorted out a portion of power to the building, officials said.

No one was injured in the incident, and at 10:25 a.m., hotel occupants were allowed to return to their rooms.

