
Arson Probe Is Ordered In State Hospital Fire

Arson is suspected in a fire last night at the Vermont State Hospital in Waterbury and state fire investigators and hospital staff members are investigating today.

At 7 last night, 20 Waterbury firemen, two engines, and an emergency unit went to the hospital and extinguished a fire in several bales of rags stored in the basement of the hospital's "10 North" building.

There were no injuries and little damage was done to the building.

Thirty-two male patients were evacuated by the staff before firemen arrived.

Waterbury Fire Chief C. C.

Fisher said firemen found matches and a jackknife by the baled rags which were blazing when firemen arrived.

Firemen entered the building with self-contained air supplies, and used smoke ejectors to clear the air following the blaze.

The practice of storing the rags, for sale to a Burlington firm, was termed "a hospital tradition of sorts," by director George Brooks. He said it is "a grossly un-economical" practice, which is likely to be discontinued.

The investigation, which now centers on patients with arson histories, is not yet completed.