Art building evacuated after fire

Small kiln fire causes cancelled classes, but minimal damage

By Jense Lewis
Arizona Daily Wildcat

The Art building, 1001 N. Olive Road, was evacuated around 11 a.m. yesterday when a kiln in a studio ignited a small fire, officials said.

A bronze casting class was melting the wax off their ceramic molds when the wax in the kiln caught fire, said Carlton Bradford, sculpting instructor and shop technician.

The small fire was contained before flames and was put out immediately by the kiln’s internal fire suppression system, said Bradford, who was in the building at the time.

Bradford said the machine was thoroughly cleaned last week and the fire was a rarity for the department.

“I have been two years and this is the first time I’ve seen this happen ... it was an accident,” Bradford said.

As a precaution, the building was evacuated to ensure the safety of the students, said Deputy Chief Randy Ogden, Tucson Fire Department spokesman.

“The wax built up and produced smoke which set off the alarm. There really was minimal damage,” Ogden said.

The fire left chemical dust that was cleaned up by UA Risk Management.

No one was injured in the fire and it was completely contained within the kiln. Ogden said.

The kiln was in the basement of the Art building, near the loading docks.

Everyone from the building was let back in as soon as police and fire officials deemed the building safe to re-enter. Ogden said.

“The building was only evacuated for 15 or 20 minutes,” said Herb Wagner, associate director for UA Risk Management and Safety.

The Theatre Arts building, near the Art building, was also briefly evacuated.

Bradford said the fire caused

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Torture survivor speaks on rights violations, School of the Americas

By Monica Warren
Arizona Daily Wildcat

A survivor of government-sponsored torture in El Salvador visited the UA yesterday to speak out against the use of violence against civilians by militaries around the world.

Carlos Mauricio, a former professor at the University of El Salvador, spoke to about 20 people in the Social Justice Leadership Center. He detailed his time as a prisoner and his fight to bring justice to those who were also wronged.

Mauricio was abducted from his university in June 1985. He was taken to the National Police headquarters, where he was beaten, tortured and interrogated for about two weeks.

He said the police accused him of being a guerrilla insurgent because of his association with people involved in the guerrilla movement.

Mauricio said he was handcuffed, blindfolded, beaten and denied food, water, sleep and use of bathrooms.

He said, at one point, he and other prisoners were hidden from the Red Cross by their captors.

In July 2002, he and two other torture survivors sued two of the military generals who were in charge at the time of his abduction. A jury awarded them $51.6 million in damages. The case set a precedent for other torture survivors who want compensation for their pain.