

Radio Electra '07

89.9 FM Black Rock City



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Tragedy Befalls Radio-Electra Fundraiser!!!

April 1, 2007

Tucson, Arizona

Yes it was a Hoax! April Fools!

A fire at a South Tucson Brewery/Nightspot has killed 3 persons and injured 19, authorities said early today. The fire broke out as the Radio-Electra Fundraiser, a Theme Camp at the annual [Burning Man Event](#), was just getting it on down.

A seven alarm fire had battalions of Firefighters shooting jets of water onto the structure, fighting to control a blaze that burned all night and threatened to bring down the historic brewery.

The fire, which occurred just after 11 p.m. Saturday during the groups annual Fundraiser, was first reported to authorities as an explosion. However, Phil MyCrevice, assistant county manager for Pinal County, said that was not immediately confirmed.

Of the 19 injured, ten were in critical condition, MyCrevice said. The injured were sent to area hospitals while others were taken to Shadyside Trauma Center in Wilcox. In addition to the attendees who were injured, two police officers were treated for smoke inhalation and three Tucson firefighters needed medical attention.

About 400 partiers were in attendance when the fire broke out, along with 15 staff members. The cause of the fire was not immediately known. However two local Tucson Fire Spinning Groups were performing dueling acts at the time.

With morning light, the damage from the spectacular blaze that lit up the night and attracted hundreds of onlookers was evident. The top floors were little more than charred steel twisted into destroyed shapes. Everything else was burned away. Estimated property loss & damage to the building are approaching \$5 million.

Gary Taylor, aka Rockstar, the organizer of the event and the President of Radio-Electra was lead away in handcuffs and is being held without bail by authorities. No charges have been filed at this time, Taylor will be arraigned on Monday morning.

"The investigation is already underway," MyCrevice said, adding that local authorities were waiting for the State Bureau of Investigation to arrive to assist in determining what went wrong. Just before the fire broke out, attendees reported an explosion followed by an electrical power surge. Preliminary reports suggest the vulnerability of the systems that were installed to provide electrical power and to support fire suppression efforts, a failure of the emergency generator and a major problem with the standpipe system, each of which contributed to the final outcome. These experiences should cause responsible individuals and agencies to critically reexamine the adequacy of all emergency systems in all major buildings throughout the Tucson area.

The scene here in Tucson is reminiscent of the Station nightclub disaster in Feb, 2003 in West Warwick, Rhode Island. A band that was on the platform that night, during its performance, used pyrotechnics that ignited polyurethane foam insulation lining the walls and ceiling of the platform. The fire spread quickly along the ceiling area over the dance floor. Smoke was visible in the exit doorways in a little more than one minute, and flames were observed breaking through a portion of the roof in less than five minutes. Egress from the nightclub, which was not equipped with sprinklers, was hampered by crowding at the main entrance to the building. One hundred people lost their lives in the fire. Of the fatalities, 95 were due to the inability of the occupants to evacuate before being overcome by the untenable conditions along the egress path.

With a lull in the action, we'll be right back after this commercial timeout, **APRIL FOOL'S Brought to you by the Letter K, T, R & [Scotto](#)**

