

4/26/2006 12:44:41 PM

## Overnight fire destroys Klassix

[Dan Holtz](#)

Leader-Telegram Staff

The building housing a restaurant and lounge on Eau Claire's East Side Hill will likely have to be torn down following a fire late Tuesday night.

"The building will likely have to be razed," Eau Claire Fire Department Battalion Chief Kim Nessel said.

"There's significant damage throughout the structure," he said.

Customers and employees were still inside Klassix, 1720 Harding Ave., when the fire was reported at 11:27 p.m.

Everyone had evacuated the business by the time firefighters arrived and no injuries were reported, Nessel said.

The roof received severe damage because the fire ventured into an open area between the ceiling and roof.

"Once it gets up there it runs pretty good," Nessel said.

Firefighters remained on the scene this morning, primarily for cleanup purposes.

Firefighters aren't sure what caused the fire. They're not even positive where the fire began in the building, Nessel said.

Fire Department Inspector Janet Harter and other firefighters were at the restaurant today to try to make that determination.

"They're going to dig into a couple of spots and see what pans out," Nessel said.

Complicating the investigation is a hole in the roof, which has made a large heating and air conditioning unit on the roof unstable.

Investigators won't be able to get on the roof until that hazard is removed, Nessel said.

"That may slow up the investigation to some degree," he said.

The fire is the third blaze in less than three weeks at Eau Claire businesses.

An April 16 fire caused \$70,000 damage to Mother Earth Laundromat, 2112 Cameron St., and Amerasian Foods Plus, 2116 Cameron St.

The adjoining businesses are part of a strip mall on the city's west side.

An April 8 fire caused \$35,000 damage to Just Local Food Co-op, 104 Gibson St. The fire appeared to be caused by an electrical malfunction.



### Name Game

For many years the building at 1720 Harding Ave. was the Brothers Three restaurant. Since 1997 the site has been home to four other restaurants, most recently Klassix, which suffered fire damage Tuesday night.

Dakota Grill	– April 1997 to March 2000.
Laredo's	– March 2000 to October 2001.
Pink Pig	– October 2001 to May 2002.
Klassix	– May 2002 to present.