

**IN THE NEWS**

- Air Canada travel tips
- Wild Weather
- Bollywood Festival
- Stanley Cup final

- [Home](#)
- [World](#)
- [Canada](#)
- [Politics](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Arts & Entertainment](#)
- [Technology & Science](#)
- [Community](#)
- [Weather](#)
- [Video](#)

- [Canada](#)
- [Toronto](#)
- [Photo Galleries](#)

Parkdale highrise fire leads to arson charge

Last Updated: Friday, October 15, 2010 | 7:40 AM ET [CBC News](#)

A 29-year-old man faces assault and arson charges following a fire at an apartment building on Close Avenue near Jameson Avenue and King Street West in Toronto early Thursday morning.

Police say that around 1:30 a.m. a man used a tire and a refrigerator to barricade the front door of an 11th-floor apartment suite before lighting a fire inside.

After securing the balcony doors with another tire, the man rappelled down the building to the 10th floor where he was helped back inside with the assistance of tenant.

He then went to the lobby before he was driven away from the scene.

About 100 people were evacuated from the building before firefighters extinguished the blaze.

Const. Wendy Drummond said the man was found about an hour later in the Lakeshore Boulevard West and Bathurst Street area.

"This accused ran from police and a brief foot pursuit ensued. During that foot pursuit the accused stopped running and tripped the officer, where a brief struggle ensued where it is alleged the accused tried to take the officer's handgun," Drummond said Friday.

Drummond said soot and fire marks on his clothing linked the man to the Parkdale fire.

Murat Belir is charged with arson, assault with intent to resist arrest and disarming a peace officer.

**Internal Links**

- [Firefighters battle several fires around city](#)

Stay Connected with CBC News