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Cause of Cayuga Correctional Facility prison fire that displaced 59 inmates overnight under investigation

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MORAVIA, N.Y. -- When a fire broke out in the laundry room Sunday at the Cayuga Correctional Facility, 117 state prison inmates were immediately **evacuated**, state Department of Corrections officials said Monday.

The **fire started** in a dryer vent in a laundry room about 5 p.m. Sunday in the area known as D-1 of the Cayuga Correctional Facility in Moravia, a state prison official said. The 117 inmates were evacuated from the D-1 and D-2 areas, officials said.

About two dozen firefighters from local fire departments entered the prison and extinguished the fire, according to state prison officials.

Overnight accommodations were made for 59 inmates in the D-1 area because of smoke damage, prison officials said. Those inmates stayed in the correctional facility's gym overnight. The inmates returned to their dorms on Monday, prison officials said.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Cayuga is a medium-security correctional facility that houses nearly 1,000 men in Cayuga County.

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