

Written by Administrator
Thursday, 20 January 2011 11:31 -

A fire broke out Thursday morning in an area of Mystic Lake Casino that was closed for remodeling, prompting the evacuation of half of the gambling area, Mdewankaton Sioux tribal officials said.

There were about 100 people in the part of the Shakopee facility that was evacuated.

The fire broke out at about 9:30

a.m. in an area that was under construction, a tribal official said. A worker was cutting steel when a spark flew up into the foam insulation just under the roof.

The crew used fire extinguishers but could not contain the fire, and emergency response crews from throughout the area arrived to battle it.

No injuries were reported. A tribal official initially said that only construction workers were evacuated.

A witness said shortly after 10 a.m. that he could see flames shooting from the roof of the casino.

"It looks like they are getting the flames under control right now," said Brad Bakke, of Edina, a motorist who was driving by. "It's still smoking good."

For a while, there were two firetrucks with booms working the fire, but that was reduced to one. Even so, he could hear sirens signaling more emergency vehicles were on the way at about 10:15 a.m.

Tribal Administrator Bill Rudnicki said the fire was still burning as of 10:35 a.m., but was under control.

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Fire fighters had to cut a hole in the roof to put it out, according to Bryan Prettyman, vice president of Mystic Lake Casino.

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