



Officials trying to identify fire vic

'Need by homeless for safe shelters' is spotlighted

By Martin Luttrell
TELEGRAM & GAZETTE STAFF

WORCESTER — The deaths of two people in a burning trailer Wednesday night have prompted calls for more shelter space for the homeless and better security of vacant buildings.

Critics of the People in Peril shelter at 701 Main St., which offers beds, meals and substance-abuse programs to alcoholics and drug users, have blamed the shelter for crime in the Main South neighborhood. They called on the city to move the shelter, or at least enforce its permit for 88 beds.

The shelter often houses more than 150 on winter nights. Proponents say the shelter should be permitted to take in the additional clients to keep them from sleeping outside, in vacant buildings or other dangerous places.

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T&G Staff/PAUL KAPTEYN

Worcester police and fire investigators comb through the wreckage of a burned-out trailer yesterday on a lot at Jackson and Beacon streets. A homeless man and woman died in a fire there.