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Fire warming homeless rages out of control, injures man in Pontiac

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A vacant commercial structure where homeless people gather in Pontiac caught fire Thursday, causing burns to 80 percent of a 66-year-old man's body.

The fire occurred shortly before 3 p.m. Thursday, when a tire fire, used for warming purposes, apparently got out of hand.

A deputy with the Oakland County Sheriff's Office had to use bolt cutters on the locked gate in order to get near the fire. He detained a 62-year-old man and gave him a ticket for open burning.

Pontiac firefighters tended to the fire and the man whose front legs and front torso were badly burned.

The burned man was taken to Detroit Receiving Hospital.

An investigation is being conducted by the Pontiac Fire Department.

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