

## Mom, 6 kids killed in Tacloban tent fire

Written by Administrator  
Monday, 02 June 2014 12:03

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**Photo shows the fire's 6-year-old survivor, John Mark Ocenar, who would later die of complications from third degree burns.**

MANILA — An overnight fire razed a tent used as a temporary shelter by survivors of Typhoon Haiyan, killing a woman and all six of her children, including a 4-month-old girl.

The tragedy highlights the slow progress in the resettlement of tens of thousands of survivors of Haiyan, which struck more than six months ago killing at least 6,300 people and displacing more than 4 million.

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The fire was caused by a kerosene lamp and quickly consumed the canvas tent just after midnight last Tuesday, Tacloban City disaster management officer Derrick Anido said.

The shelter was one of 40 in a “tent city” in San Jose district, which was wiped out by tsunami-like storm surges and fierce winds from Typhoon Haiyan in November.

Five of the children who died outright from burns and suffocation ranged in age from 4 months to 12 years old, Anido said.

The woman died soon after she was rushed to a government hospital.

Her 6-year-old son, who doctors declared in critical condition with burns all over his body, died later last Wednesday, he said.

“It happened around 12:20...but it was so fast that by 12:30 it was over,” Anido said, adding that everyone was sleeping when the fire broke out.

“Unfortunately, after surviving (the typhoon), they were killed in a fire.”

Anido, quoting investigators, said the family apparently had trouble opening the tent’s zipper door.

“The problem is that so many people are still living in tents and we have been saying all along that these tents are fire hazards,” Anido said.

“And we have been requesting (the national government) to relocate them to safer shelters.”

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He said only 1,000 temporary houses made of wood with galvanized iron roofing had been built so far, while 14,000 families in the city still live in vulnerable coastal villages and need to be relocated.

Anido also said the site where the tents donated by the United Nations are located is prone to flooding.

“It is almost June and it will soon be rainy season in Tacloban, and this will again be a problem,” he said.