



Local synagogue attacked

01/07/09

By Amy Wooten
Staff writer

Police are looking into a recent attack of a Lakeview East synagogue.

A Molotov cocktail was thrown at Temple Sholom Dec. 29, causing a small amount of damage to the side of the building. No one was injured.

Police are investigating the arson as a possible hate crime. But Temple Sholom's Senior Rabbi, Aaron M. Petuchowski, told the Sun-Times that there was no obvious evidence that the incident was connected to current events in the Gaza Strip.

"I couldn't rule it out, but it would seem to me that if there was an intent to convey that message, that there would be evidence of that message," he said.

The synagogue is located on the 3400 block of N. Lake Shore Drive.

In a statement released by state Rep. Sara Feigenholtz, she said, "While we are grateful that no one was physically harmed, we cannot ignore the intentions of this heinous act. As a resident and elected official of this community, I know my neighbors have a zero tolerance for any and all acts of hatred. We must continue to work together to keep this policy in place and I urge that anyone with information regarding this attack contact local authorities immediately."

As of press time, the Chicago Police Department didn't respond to a request for an update on the progress of the investigation.