

Fire + Fire Premonition

# 'No reason for her to die'

## Half-sister angry over death of Dominican fire victim

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SANTA CRUZ — Everything in Jodie Andrews' tiny Beach Hill apartment is tinged yellow-brown from her lifelong smoking habit.

As Alice Shamlian cleans up and boxes her half-sister's possessions, she doesn't deny that the 81-year-old Andrews, who died Friday in a fire at Dominican Hospital, was a four-pack-a-day smoker who started smoking when she was 10.

But Shamlian said that doesn't mean Andrews should have died.

"I am angry," said Shamlian, a 58-year-old Vallejo resident. "So she smoked. There wasn't any reason for her to die."

Preliminary investigations have indicated the fire might have been caused by Andrews smoking in bed.

County Fire District Capt. Chris Holm said that cigarette butts were found in the bed, but the investigation is continuing.

None of Dominican's room are equipped with smoke detectors and the wing Andrew was staying in does not have a sprinkler system. Hospital additions and sections that have been remodeled have sprinkler systems. State laws do not require hospitals to install smoke detectors.

A member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints,

which forbids the use of cigarettes, alcohol, tea and coffee, Andrews had tried many times to quit smoking, Shamlian said.

Although Andrews was able to give up drinking, said Shamlian, she could not quit smoking.

At the time of her death, Andrews was recovering from hip surgery in Two West wing for post-operative recovery. Evacuated after the 4:30 a.m. fire, the wing is expected to be back in use Monday, a nursing supervisor said Saturday.

Shamlian said that before her sister's surgery, Andrews had a "tremendous amount of pain." An-

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## Death

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draws, she said, had hurt her back and received a hairline fracture in her pelvis in a fall earlier this year. She also needed a new hip replacement.

Shamlian said that last Sunday when Andrews called her — the last time they spoke — she told her what she wanted done with her things should anything happen to her.

To Shamlian, it seemed to be a premonition. "I don't think she really felt totally at ease," she said.

Shamlian said that Andrews had survived three hotel fires in her life, and was "very, very paranoid about being caught in a fire."

Shamlian said she plans to visit the funeral home to see her sister's body when the coroner's office releases it.

"I think it's needful because of the circumstances," said Shamlian. "It wasn't right what happened to her. I wouldn't want to see it happen to someone else," she said.

Shamlian painted a picture of a

**'I am angry. So she smoked. There wasn't any reason for her to die.'**

*— Alice Shamlian,  
victim's half-sister*

strong, independent, but lonely woman who reached out to others with the dolls she made.

Although there were 23 years between the two half-sisters, who have the same father, Andrews called her every weekend, said Shamlian. Andrews had no children. She had been married four times, her sister said, but had lived alone most of her life.

"Every weekend I waited for her call," said Shamlian. "She needed someone to say 'I love you.'"