A worker’s cigarette break turned into a devastating disaster for a downtown donut shop.

Tastee Donuts on Broadway is in ruins this morning after an early morning fire. The shop’s owner…Mildred Norton…says around four this morning she stepped out for a smoke…and that’s when the real smoke began. She says she left a pot of oil on the stove…it overflowed…igniting the massive blaze.

Midcity firefighters were quickly on the scene but they say there was no saving Tastee Donuts. Damage has been estimated at nearly a half million dollars.

Firefighters say there is some damage to the two businesses next to the donut shop…April’s Flowers…and Maria’s Earrings and Things.

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There’s something going around the Midcity Police Department that may lead to a lot of officers calling in sick.

It’s not the swine flu or some other illness. Officers say they are sick about what they are paid. They have asked for a six percent pay increase but the Midcity Board of Supervisors is offering two percent.

As a protest…Midcity Police Association spokesperson Lieutenant Carl Mercer says local officers may stage a sick-out next Monday…

SOT: Lt. Carl Mercer :09
In: We have to do
Out: is a disgrace

More talks between the police association and the board of supervisors are set for 7:30 tonight at the Midcity Convention Center.

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