

## 《杭州保姆纵火案致使家政行业受打击》

The housekeeping industry in east China ' s Hangzhou City is in a rut after a recent arson case where a housekeeper set fire to her employer ' s apartment, killing a mother and three children.

Last Thursday, a fire broke out at a luxurious apartment in Hangzhou at around 5:07 a.m. local time. The blaze was soon put out, but four residents died at the hospital after they were found by fire fighters at the scene.



The blaze at the luxurious apartment. /Qianjiang Evening News Photo

Local police said the fire was a case of arson. They detained the 34-year-old housekeeper, identified only as Mo, who escaped the scene using an elevator for the help.





# 警方通报

## 上城区蓝色钱江火灾系人为放火导致 事主家保姆莫某晶有重大作案嫌疑

6月22日5时07分，杭州消防支队指挥中心接报警：位于上城区鲲鹏路蓝色钱江小区2幢1单元1802室起火。接警后，上城区消防大队迅速调派消防车赶赴现场进行扑救，现场搜救出4名伤者，全部送至浙江大学附属第二医院救治，4人经全力抢救无效死亡。

经公安机关调查，明确为一起放火案件。该户保姆莫某晶（女，34岁，广东东莞人）有重大作案嫌疑，现已被公安机关控制，案件正在进一步调查中。

杭州市公安局上城区分局

2017年6月22日

@平安上城

Local police reports the casualties in the fire and claims the housekeeper surnamed Mo as the main suspect.  
/Weibo Photo

The housekeeper who gambles

Mo, originally from south China's Guangdong Province, has worked for the family for almost a year, during which the employer treated and paid her well, Mo's friend told The Paper.

"But Mo is addicted to gambling. We used to gamble together in Macao, have debts we cannot repay and escaped together to east China working as housekeepers," the friend said.

After first moving to Shanghai in 2014, Mo continued gambling and borrowed money from friends, coworkers and even her employers, before she settled down with the victims' family in 2016 and moved to Hangzhou.





The housekeeper at custody. /Weibo Photo

The victims' family was not aware of her gambling history and trusted her a lot, even lending Mo 100,000 yuan (15,000 US dollars) when Mo claimed she needed to buy a property.

Impact on housekeeping market

Many now have doubts over the management of housekeeping agencies in the city.



Housekeepers are waiting in vain for new customers after the arson case. /The Paper Photo

At least in Hangzhou, becoming a housekeeper only requires one to hold an identity card, have basic communications skills and can handle basic housework. Most housekeepers are primary and secondary school graduates.

Even health certificates are not required. A supervisor surnamed Li from a local housekeeping agency said she tells her clients to take their employees for physicals, as some housekeepers may provide counterfeit health certificates to get a job.

"We record ID information, check criminal history and do basic backgrounds check, but there are always those who are almighty to hide their dark secrets. After all, we can't read hearts," Li said.

Housekeepers in Hangzhou now have to deal with the ramifications of the actions of one bad egg.

"The news resulted in an unexpected degree of negative impact on us," one housekeeping agency said. "All of a sudden housekeeping has become a dangerous job, and we haven't received new customers."

