



Devastation: An aerial view of the damage done by the fire that destroyed 31 buildings in Sungai Lembing.

# Couple killed in early morning inferno

## 19 shophouses, 11 houses and library razed

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**KUANTAN:** An elderly husband and wife died in an early morning fire, which gutted 31 buildings in the historical tin mining town of Sungai Lembing.

The charred remains of Chow Kim Mui, 70, were found by firemen in the wooden shophouse-cum-restaurant that the couple lived in, while the body of her husband Ho Yok Fun, 74, has yet to be found.

The fire is said to have broken out at 1.35am on Friday, said Pahang Fire and Rescue Department director Nor Hisham Mohamad.

Up to 62 firefighters from the Indera Mahkota, Kuantan, Taman Tas and Gebeng stations brought the blaze under control by 3.56am.

Nineteen shophouses, 11 houses and a library were razed.

Pahang Regent Tengku Hassanah Ibrahim Alam Shah ibni Al-Sultan Abdullah visited the site of the fire yesterday and handed aid to the victims, who were being sheltered at



Raging flames: Fire burning through the shophouses that claimed the lives of an elderly couple.

SJKC Sungai Lembing.

Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Wan Rosdy Wan Ismail said the state government had approved a RM1,000 immediate financial aid for the affected victims, consisting of 53 people.

Other basic needs would also be channelled through the Welfare Department and the Civil Defence Force.

Meanwhile, Bernama reported that both the husband and wife were preparing for their youngest son's wedding scheduled to be held next week.

Ho's younger brother Yok Kam, 69,

said he rushed over from Kuantan as soon as he heard the news.

He said the couple's four children, — two daughters and two sons — all of whom lived elsewhere, were making their way to Sungai Lembing to assist authorities by undergoing DNA tests which would facilitate the identification of the recovered body.

Watch the video  
[thestartv.com](http://thestartv.com)

