

Woman In Critical Condition After Being Rescued From Fire

A woman was listed in critical condition at Baptist Hospital Thursday morning after firefighters rescued her when they responded to a blaze at her four-room home at 21 Grandview Street in North Wilkesboro.

North Wilkesboro firefighters were dispatched at 10:21 p.m. Wednesday, forced open the locked front door and found Linda Gail Moore, 41, lying on her bedroom floor in the smoke-filled, wood-frame house, said North Wilkesboro Fire Chief Niki Hamby.

Hamby said Ms. Moore was unconscious but was breathing on her own when firefighters found her.

Hamby said the fire started in an upholstered straight-back chair in the living room, which is next to the bedroom where Ms. Moore was found. He said he determined that the fire resulted from an accidental cause and that he couldn't rule out the possibility that it started from a cigarette.

Hamby said North Wilkesboro police had been to the house about an hour earlier regarding a domestic issue involving Ms. Moore and a man. Police said the woman then went into her house, locked the doors and went to bed, he added.

A neighbor saw smoke coming from eaves of the house and forced the door open but wasn't able to reach Ms. Moore due to heavy smoke, said Hamby.

Hamby said there was mostly smoke and water damage to the house. He said flames that firefighters saw coming from a window when they arrived were from the burning chair. Hamby said the chair was against the front door.

Wilkes Emergency Medical Services transported Ms. Moore to Baptist.

Firefighters were on the scene until 12:37 a.m. today.