

# Woman Escapes Fire



A woman sleeping in a second floor apartment on Fourth Street in North Wilkesboro escaped injury this morning when the structure caught on fire.

Megan Brooks was asleep in one of three bedrooms in the apartment when she was awakened by her mother, Patricia Brooks, at 10:15. The two were then able to escape the burning apartment.

Patricia Brooks said that she had taken her two grandchildren, Austin Aquino, age 10, and Gabriel Aquino, 8, on a walk earlier in the morning. When they returned to the apartment, she noticed that the front door was open, and she said she saw two people run from the apartment. She called the North Wilkesboro Police, and two officers were dispatched to the scene at 10:13.

Ms. Brooks said she then smelled smoke, and saw smoke billowing from the windows of a bedroom. She went into the apartment and rescued her daughter, who was in another bedroom with the door locked.

North Wilkesboro firemen responded to the scene and quickly extinguished the fire, getting assistance from Broadway and Knotville fire departments.

The apartment was owned by Wright Rental Properties.

Ms. Brooks said she had heard sizzling noises from one of the outlets in the bedroom the day before the fire. Family members said that a television, DVD/VCR player, and radio were plugged into a multi-plug adapter in the outlet. North Wilkesboro Fire Chief Niki Hamby said that it appeared that the adapter overheated and caught a nearby stack of clothing on fire.