

2 Homes Heavily Damaged In Fires

An apartment and a doublewide mobile home were heavily damaged in separate fires in Wilkes County this morning.

Both fires appear to be accidental and resulted in no injuries, said officials.

In Pleasant Hill

The Pleasant Hill Fire Department was dispatched at 10:45 a.m. today to the mobile home fire, which was on Hamlet Road in eastern Wilkes County.

Pleasant Hill Fire Chief Andy Chatman said while still on the scene late this morning that the fire possibly started in or near a laundry room, but the cause hadn't yet been investigated.

Chatman said the fire spread up into the area between the ceiling and roof and moved across the length of the mobile home. He said it was hard for firefighters to reach that area of the structure to battle the fire.

The fire displaced a family of seven people, said Chatman, adding that the American Red Cross was assisting them.

The Ronda Fire Department was dispatched to assist Pleasant Hill.

Hamlet Road is off Luffman Road.

In North Wilkesboro

A one-room apartment on J Street in North Wilkesboro was heavily damaged by fire and smoke this morning but firefighters kept the blaze from spreading to two nearby apartment units.

North Wilkesboro Fire Chief Niki Hamby, also a fire investigator with the Wilkes Sheriff's Department, said the North Wilkesboro Fire Department was dispatched at 2:12 a.m. today and found smoke coming from the apartment.

Flames started coming from the windows after firefighters arrived, but Hamby said they quickly brought it under control by knocking out windows to vent the fire, by spraying water through windows and entering the apartment to spray water.

"We had it under control within 10 minutes," he said.

Hamby said the fire started in a bed, apparently after the woman who lives there fell asleep while smoking. He said the woman awoke to find her bed covers on fire and went to get water to put it out.

The fire was too large for her to extinguish when she returned so she exited the apartment, said Hamby, adding that firefighters helped residents of the two nearby apartments leave their units as a precaution.

He said the woman who lives in the unit with the fire is on oxygen and easily could have been seriously injured, but no one was hurt. The American Red Cross is assisting the woman. Her name wasn't available this morning.

Hamby said the North Wilkesboro Housing Authority owns the apartments.