

# Modular Home Lost in Fire From Cookout

Efforts to have a Labor Day weekend cookout led to the loss of a modular home at 360 Snowdrift Lane in the Cricket community Saturday afternoon.

Cricket Fire Chief David Webb said a man who owned and lived in the house lit charcoal in a metal charcoal chimney device, set the device down on his back porch floor (made of plastic decking boards) and walked away. Charcoal chimneys help get charcoal fully lit before it's used in a grill.

“He smelled smoke, returned and found the house on fire,” said Webb, explaining that the burning charcoal caught the plastic decking boards on fire. The fire then spread to an outside wall and went up the wall into the attic.

Webb said there was ample oxygen to fuel the fire in the attic and firefighters found flames coming from the roof of the house when they arrived.

He said the man dialed 911 after he tried unsuccessfully to put the fire out with a fire extinguisher. The Wilkes Communications Center dispatched firefighters at about 3:30 p.m.

The Millers Creek and North Wilkesboro fire departments assisted the Cricket Fire Department. Webb said two firefighters were overcome by heat but fully recovered.

Webb said the man was in his 60s but when interviewed Monday morning didn't have his records with the man's name immediately available. He said the man had insurance on the house, which he said was destroyed.

American Red Cross volunteers assisted the man by providing lodging, food and clothing. The man was referred to the Red Cross Emergency Services Department for further assistance.

Snowdrift Lane is a dead end road off Welcome Home Church Road.