

# Fire in Same Home Fought Friday, Saturday



Firefighters were dispatched to a fire in a doublewide mobile home off Sidney Drive in North Wilkesboro about 11:30 p.m. Friday and had to return about 11:15 p.m. Saturday in response to a fire there again.

Niki Hamby, fire investigator with the Wilkes Sheriff's Department, said he couldn't rule if the fire started accidentally or was intentionally set.

Hamby explained that based on his investigation, he believed it could have started Friday night from wiring problems and then could have rekindled Saturday night.

He said there was electricity to the mobile home and a woman lived there, but there was no insurance on the structure. Hamby said it belonged to Ralph Royal, who lived nearby.

The woman who lived in the doublewide found the structure burning after being gone a short period, said Hamby. The American Red Cross provided the woman with a motel room, clothes and food.

The North Wilkesboro and Knotville fire departments were dispatched initially because the fire was believed to be in the North Wilkesboro Fire District. The Mulberry-Fairplains Fire Department was dispatched when it was determined to be in that district.

On Saturday night, the Mulberry-Fairplains and Knotville fire departments were dispatched.

Soon after they arrived on the scene Saturday night, firefighters discovered the burning remains of a nearby singlewide mobile home.

Hamby said he learned from people at the scene that the fire in the singlewide mobile home was started Saturday to remove the structure.

He said owners of the singlewide mobile home had a burning permit from the N.C. Forest Service and mistakenly believed it allowed them to burn down the structure. It wasn't occupied and didn't have electricity.

It was raining as firefighters worked both nights and three fire departments got stuck Saturday night.

Mulberry-Fairplains were on the scene of the first fire until about 3 a.m. Saturday and on the scene of the second fire until about 2 a.m. Sunday.

Sidney Drive is a dead-end road off N.C. 268 East, near Flint Hill Road.