

Ward & Ward Building In Wilkesboro Gutted By Fire Early Wednesday



UPDATE: Ward & Ward co-owners DeLynda and John Ward said they wanted to thank all of the firefighters for their efforts on the fire at Ward & Ward and others in the community, particularly fellow local Realtors, for their support and assistance in the aftermath. They jointly asked for people's prayers during the recovery. The business continues to operate, but in its additional building next door to the one that burned. DeLynda Ward said her cell number, 336-468-7974, can be used until the main Ward & Ward numbers are reactivated. She said individual Ward & Ward Realtors can also be reached using their cell numbers, which are posted on the company's website at www.wardandwardproperties.com.

The Ward & Ward Properties building on Cherry Street in Wilkesboro was gutted by fire early Wednesday morning.

Wilkesboro Fire Chief Jason Smithey said the department was dispatched to the fire at 11:45 p.m. Tuesday and found the fire in the rear of the building but advancing throughout the first floor and onto the second floor.

Smithey said he called for assistance from the North Wilkesboro Fire Department and later the Broadway Fire Department. The Wilkes Rescue Squad also responded with the county air truck to refill air tanks. He said the fire was extinguished and all firefighters cleared the scene by 2:45 a.m. Wednesday.

Smithey said nearly 40 firefighters and five fire trucks were on the scene.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation, he said.

Smithey said one firefighter received a minor injury from a fall.

The Ward & Ward building was originally constructed as a house and was later converted for commercial use as a real estate office.

Ward & Ward also owns another former house next door and uses it as an additional real estate sales office, but the company's main operations were in the structure that burned.

DeLynda and John Ward of Wilkesboro own and operate the business. DeLynda Ward was on the scene about 8:30 a.m. this morning with their insurance agent, Matt Matthews.