

Large Tree Falls on E Street House

A large white oak tree fell and heavily damaged a home at 1012 E Street, North Wilkesboro shortly before 6 p.m.

Thursday as remnants of Tropical Storm Michael were moving on.

People were in the house when the tree crashed through part of the roof but no one was injured, said North Wilkesboro Fire Chief Jimmy Martin. The fire department responded and also



contacted the American Red Cross to provide assistance to the occupants.

Martin said two adult couples and two children live in the house. No names of occupants were immediately available.

The tree, with a circumference of 16 feet at head height, was on the edge of an embankment behind the house.

A neighbor said it fell during a roughly 15-minute period



of surprisingly strong wind that came when the ground was saturated from nearly 8 inches of rain in less than 48 hours.

The brick and wood frame house is a short distance west of the intersection of E and 10th streets.

No other trees fell in the immediate area of North Wilkesboro, but many trees came down across Wilkes County as a result of



Tropical Storm Michael's rain and wind. Nearly 1,400 Duke Energy customers in Wilkes lost electricity Thursday due to downed power lines.

Also on Thursday, a man died when the car he was driving was struck by a tree on a highway east of Statesville.