

Four People "Narrowly Escape" N.W. House Fire

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Editor



Four people narrowly escaped injury during a devastating house fire in North Wilkesboro early Sunday morning, Feb. 12.

The names of the two adult males and two adult females, who had been in the house at the time the fire, were not immediately available.

Interim North Wilkesboro Fire Chief Kini Hamby said in an interview with *The Wilkes Record*, that one of the four people at the home had been awake and saw flames in the kitchen area. That person alerted others inside the home, he said.

"They narrowly escaped," Hamby said, adding that two of the people had to jump from a window.

Hamby said the one-story, vinyl covered home, located at 702 F Street, was a total loss and that there was no insurance on the structure. The value of the home and its contents was estimated to be \$125,000, the interim chief added. Most of the damage was to the back side of the house. No other structures were damaged.

The fire was reported by one of the occupants of the home at 4:22 a.m., Hamby said, and North Wilkesboro Fire Department personnel were on the scene two minutes later. They were joined by members of the Wilkesboro and Broadway fire departments, Wilkes Rescue, Wilkes EMS and the North Wilkesboro Police Department.

Hamby said that members of the N.C. Fire Marshal's office is investigating the fire and expected to learn their findings within the next week. He said it is believed the fire may have been caused by a faulty kitchen appliance.

Duke Energy disconnected power to the home because of the power lines had been damaged in the blaze, the interim chief said.

The American Red Cross also responded and gave the occupants of the ruined home clothing vouchers, Hamby said.

"They all said they had somewhere else they could stay," Hamby said. "They only got out with the clothes on their backs."