

# Fire Destroys Wilkes County Bowling Alley

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NORTH WILKESBORO, N.C. – A bowling alley and nearby skating rink were destroyed in a fire that began in the late afternoon, fire officials in Wilkes County said.

Wilkes County Fire Marshall Kevin Bounds said firefighters were still working to put out the fire about 7:30 p.m. Saturday. Bounds said that as far as he knew no one had been injured.

The bowling alley, called Wilkes Lanes, is at 324 Elkin Highway in North Wilkesboro. The skating rink is adjacent.

North Wilkesboro fire officials said the first call came in around 5:10 p.m. The bulk of the damage was done to the right side of the building, consisting of the bowling area, officials said.

Bounds said a number of fire departments had converged on the property to combat the blaze. Roughly 18-20 agencies worked to clear the hot spots and three aerial ladders were used.



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Investigators said the cause of the fire is still under investigation, but believe the two propane tanks in rear of building had something to do with it.

North Wilkesboro fire officials said Highway 268 will be blocked until midnight due to the fire. The 60-year-old building is said to be a total loss.

Authorities said about 20 to 30 people were inside at the time of the fire and all of them got out safely.