

Wilkesboro Fire Started From Overloaded Electrical System



Wilkesboro and North Wilkesboro firefighters worked together to save a 1 1/2-story house on fire on West South Street early Tuesday afternoon.

Wilkesboro Fire Chief Jason Smithey said the fire started from sparks from an overloaded electrical extension cord and outlet on the second floor.

Smithey said the actual fire was contained on the second floor, but that the bottom floor was damaged by water used to extinguish the blaze.

He said the first floor drop ceiling collapsed from being wet.

Smithey said the house might not be repairable because of its age. He said Josephine Wellington, the owner and resident, has insurance.

Mrs. Wellington and a son and daughter were home when the fire started.

They heard popping sounds, smelled smoke and fled from the house when they realized it was burning, said Smithey, adding that one of them dialed 911.

Firefighters fought the fire from outside until they were able to find the inside stairwell to the second floor.

After the Wilkesboro Fire Department was dispatched at 12:53 p.m., Wilkesboro quickly asked that North Wilkesboro be dispatched to assist.

Dark smoke was billowing from the front and back of the second floor as firefighters arrived.

Flames were showing from the front and back within five minutes, but firefighters had it under control by around 1:15 p.m.

The home is on the southern edge of downtown Wilkesboro.



