

Garage Facility Lost In Fire Fueled By Oil Products



A block and wood garage building at Danny Bell's Automotive on Mountain View Road in Hays was destroyed by fire late Thursday afternoon.

Mulberry-Fairplains Fire Chief Scott Handy said the fire started when combustible materials near a wood-burning stove in the building ignited. A man who was in the building, which was used for auto repairs, said he heard a pop sound and saw the fire.



Bell said he was in another nearby building when he learned that the garage building was on fire. He said he didn't know what started the fire and that he tried unsuccessfully to put it out.

Officials said Bell didn't have insurance on the block and wood garage building, with 2,700 to 3,000 square feet of floor space.

Handy said flames were coming from two sides of the building when firefighters arrived. Much of the roof collapsed.

Fueled by gas and other petroleum products inside, the fire produced flames about 60 feet tall and spread to tires. Billowing black smoke could be seen from long distances out in the county.

Handy said firefighters had a quick response and did a good job keeping the fire from spreading to Bell's paint shop and a residence, both just a few feet away from the burning building. Heat from the fire melted vinyl siding on a corner of the house.



The Wilkes Communications Center dispatched the Mulberry-Fairplains and North Wilkesboro fire departments at about 4:30 p.m. The Mountain View Fire Department was then dispatched. They were on the scene until about 8:30 p.m.

Handy said there were about 45 firefighters, including about 30 from Mulberry-Fairplains, on the scene. Firefighters were there until about 8:30 p.m.

The McGrady Fire Department was on standby for Mulberry-Fairplains.

Wilkes Emergency Medical Services and the Wilkes Rescue Squad were also dispatched to the fire, which was near Bell Court Apartments.