

Multiple Departments Fight Blaze Thursday



A doublewide mobile home in a wooded area off of Elledge Mill Road was destroyed by fire early Thursday afternoon in the Mulberry community.

Ron Clark said he, his wife, Tammy, and her son, Daniel, escaped the residence just before, it was engulfed by flames.

Clark said he went to his garden for about 10 minutes and, upon returning, found his home on fire. His wife, who wasn't feeling well, was lying down in a bedroom and her son was doing schoolwork in his bedroom.

The three got out just in the nick of time, with flames burning up the laundry room and a wooden deck on the back of the residence, Clark said.

The blaze quickly swept through the residence and through the roof, he said.

Mulberry-Fairplains Fire Department personnel arrived quickly, along with Mountain View, McGrady, Broadway, North Wilkesboro, Wilkesboro, Knotville, Millers Creek and Traphill firefighters. Firefighters appeared able to quickly gain control of the blaze, but the residence was destroyed.



The doublewide, located at 2233 Elledge Mill Road, was at the end of a long driveway, making access for fire trucks difficult. Mulberry-Fairplains Chief Scott Handy said one of his department's fire trucks parked near the mobile home and was fed water from fire trucks parked farther away.

Heat appeared also to be a problem for the firefighters. Wilkes Emergency Medical Services and the Wilkes Rescue Squad also were on the scene.

Clark said he and his family have lived at the home for seven or eight years. They have fire insurance, he said. Handy said it was a difficult fire to fight because it was

deep-seated inside the walls and rafters and because it was a warm day. He said firefighters were able to salvage several of the family's belongings. "The firefighters from the different departments worked together well," he added.

He said the fire began in the rear of the house near a refrigerator, apparently from an electrical problem. Handy said no foul play is suspected. Niki Hamby, a fire investigator with the Wilkes Sheriff's Office, investigated the fire.

Firefighters were on the scene from about 1-6 p.m. The American Red Cross provided beverages for firefighters and is assisting the Clark family.