

Explosion, Fire Destroy Ashe Home

Written by Steve Frank

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Ashe firefighters from several departments were responding to a report of smoke and a possible structure fire just before noon today when an explosion occurred, and a family's home was totally destroyed. The fire was just off NC 163 east of West Jefferson, the long unnamed drive just across from Boggs road where a fire destroyed a church over the summer. Fire crews arriving reported the structure fully involved and falling in when they arrived—but all the residents were safe and away from the fire. The explosion was blamed on a propane tank at the residence, and firemen worked to keep the temperature down on an oil tank at the property, found with the oil boiling inside. Family members described what was a home with two stories over the basement garage area, but all of the upper structure had fallen into the basement in the roaring fire. Ashe Fire Marshal Bob Davis was on the scene assessing damage and the cause.