

Woman Dies in Friday Fire in Wilkes

Written by Steve Frank

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Wilkes authorities say a 77-year-old woman died in a house fire Friday morning at a home off Handy-Walker Street in the Fairplains community. Betty Davis Brown apparently died from smoke inhalation, according to Wilkes Fire Investigator Niki Hamby of the Wilkes Sheriff's Department. Hamby told the Wilkes Journal-Patriot that Mrs. Brown's husband, Dean Brown, had started a car in the garage attached to the house as they were going out for breakfast, but when he turned around he couldn't see her.

Brown reentered the house, realized it was on fire and tried unsuccessfully to find his wife, said Hamby. The search for the woman was hampered by heavy smoke and fire as Dean Jones tried to find his wife in the burning house.