

Spruce Pine: State of Emergency, Arson suspected

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A massive weekend blaze destroyed at least ten downtown businesses in Spruce Pine.

The call went out just after 8 p.m. on Saturday- and Avery County assisted Mitchell firefighters at the scene. Mayor Wes Foy has declared a state of emergency in downtown and put a 24-hour curfew in place that bars the public from Oak Avenue and Locust Street, also referred to as Upper and Lower streets. The curfew could last until tomorrow. The first Saturday fire broke out between 1:30 and 2 a.m. at 380 Oak Avenue- destroying three offices and a church. The State Bureau of Investigation's Arson Task Force is investigating. Officials are calling the fires "suspicious." Arson is a definite possibility, said one source from within Spruce Pine Fire Department.