

Home Totaled, Two Slightly Hurt in Early AM Fire

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A Sampson couple escaped out into the cold from their burning house early this morning, barely able to dress as their home burned down. Joseph and June Bridges fled their 170 Penley Road home after waking to the smell of smoke, and were joined outside by a neighbor who heard explosions and the sound of their smoke detectors blaring. The Bridges suffered some smoke inhalation, but refused transport to the hospital when Watauga Medics arrived. The fire was so advanced that medics called in a mobile home fully involved when it was actually a two-story house. Stewart Simmons, Blowing Rock, and Yadkin Valley in Caldwell fire departments arrived on the scene of the 2:06am call but found access to the house was an issue for firefighters, who had to struggle to get their equipment up the driveway. Paul Buchanan of Watauga Emergency Management was dispatched, and said that the fire was probably caused by some fault in the wood heating system the Bridges were using, and he appealed to everyone to have heating systems checked and wood systems cleaned out as soon as possible. The home and a vehicle were totally burned in the early morning fire.