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Chimney Fire Gets Out of Hand in Gilmanton

Spreading Flames Prompt 1st Alarm

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GILMANTON — Thick flames shooting from a chimney fire on a home on Smith Meeting House Road late Wednesday quickly spread through the walls to summoning help from fire departments in neighboring communities.

The home of Judy and Jim Williams caught fire about 4:15 p.m. Wednesday, according to Gilmanton Fire Chief Norman Skantze.

Deputy Fire Chief Carl Moorehead reached the scene and called a first alarm at about 4:30 p.m. when the flames shooting from the roof and chimney had spread to a bedroom.

Judy Williams closed doors while making a hasty exit, which helped contain the fire, Skantze said.

No one was injured in the fire.

Extensive smoke damage was caused in the bedroom and the rest of the house had moderate smoke damage, Skantze said.

"It was a real close call," Skantze said.

Neighbor Janice McWhinnie witnessed the fire and saw the



Judy and Jim Williams comfort each other while Gilmanton firefighters work to extinguish an afternoon chimney fire that spread to a bedroom of their house on Smith Meeting House Road, causing extensive smoke damage.

Despite flames shooting up from the chimney and surrounding roof area, the Gilmanton Fire Department had the fire out shortly after arriving on the scene.

(Citizen Photo/Peter Carvelli)

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huge flames. "The flames were shooting up from the chimney," she said.

The Belmont Fire Department, Laconia Fire Department, and the Gilford Fire Department were alerted to the fire.

The Barnstead Fire Department covered the Gilmanton Corner's fire station, while the Alton Fire Department covered the Iron Works fire station.

It was a busy day for the Gilmanton Fire Department, as they were called to a brush fire off Secord Road as they were returning from Smith Meetinghouse Road.