LOCAL NEWS

Fire destroys Cliffs at Glassy home

Extreme cold, snow hamper efforts to fight blaze; no one hurt

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Firefighters dealt with snow, freezing temperatures and frozen hoses as they battled a house fire at the Cliffs at Glassy Mountain overnight that destroyed the home of a Glassy Mountain Fire Department volunteer firefighter but didn't cause any injuries.

The fire started shortly before midnight Thursday as snow fell and fog slowed the department's response time, said Glassy Mountain Fire Chief Brian Riebe.

When they arrived on the scene, at 7923 Glassy Ridge Road, the home was engulfed in flames.

Crews battled through the night and into the morning for 12 hours as winds whipped flames and hoses froze and ice patches formed on the ground, Riebe said.

"Everything was freezing," Riebe said. "The men, the equipment, the hose lines. It made it a very, very tough job for us. There were a number of falls and slips on the ice but there were no injuries."

The single-story house was a total loss but the homeowners, a man and his wife, and their dog, escaped unharmed, he said.

Twenty-four firefighters from Glassy Mountain fought the blaze, he said. Tigerville Fire Department and Landrum Rescue Squad sent backup, Riebe said.

Riebe said investigation into the cause of the fire had not begun yet, but likely started in the garage.

The man and his wife were watching the Texas-Alabama National Championship college football game when fire alarms went off, the homeowners told Riebe.

The man saw heavy smoke in the garage and got everyone out safely, he said.

Greenville County's real property index listed the home's fair market value at $973,786.