

Fire destroys house under construction near Keowee

Blaze threatens other homes in Cliffs community

BY ROBERT BENSON
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SALEM — Fire destroyed a house under construction on the shores of Lake Keowee Wednesday evening as 50 firefighters from seven departments

and two counties battled to protect adjacent houses threatened by the inferno.

Drivers could see the massive smoke plume from just outside of Seneca as the home at 314 Knollwood Drive in the Cliffs at Keowee Falls

community burned.

Boaters on Lake Keowee called the fire in a little before 7 p.m., and the first crews were on the scene eight minutes after 911 was called, but the house

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'We were all hands on deck'

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was "completely gutted," Oconee County Fire Chief Charlie King said.

"We were all hands on deck," King said.

The fire took two hours to bring under control, and at one point, embers from the fire threatened the wooden roof shingles on two neighboring houses. At that point, firefighters worked to protect those houses.

"Fire crews are still at both of those houses," King said at 9:30 p.m. Wednesday.

The large response allowed firefighters battling the heat and humidity to be relieved before returning to action, King said. No injuries were reported.

The cause of the fire is not known at this point, but King said fire investigators were at the scene Wednesday night. He expects the investigation to kick into high gear this morning.



A house under construction in the Cliffs at Keowee Falls community was "completely gutted" by fire Wednesday evening, according to Oconee County Fire Chief Charlie King. SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL