

# Fire...from Page 1A

that they lost all of their stuff in those buildings, but if it had caught their house on fire, it really would have been devastating."

The Kimsey Street fire is the third structure fire in Union County in the last two weeks, which Dyer said was both usual and unusual.

"This is our housefire season, when the colder temperatures move in, January, February, March," said Dyer. "But this is sort of unusual to

have them so close together, so it is kind of strange, but we are really proud of the response."

More than a dozen volunteer firefighters showed up to fight the blaze, which is a terrific turnout, considering that the fire took place in the middle of a Friday afternoon.

"We could always use more volunteers, and any area needs it," said Dyer. "We've done a really hard recruitment program in the last two years, and it's paying off, because we're getting this response."

"But we still only have

like 68 volunteers, and we need 100. We need more. So, anything we can do to get more people. Most people don't get into the Fire Department so they can do reports or go to pre-fire plans. It's exciting - you get to learn things that nobody else gets to learn, and you get to do things that nobody really gets to do.

"Every one of those firemen got to go home that day and say, 'Guess what? I went to a structure fire.' There's not many people that even get to see one, much less go and

respond and get to put it out. And the bottom line is, you're helping your community.

"We go to things more than just fires: car wrecks, medical calls, hazmat. And there's going to be a day to where you're going to come

up and your actions are going to save somebody's life."

At press time Monday, investigators were still looking into the cause of the Kimsey Street fire.

The Union County Fire Department, Sheriff's Office,

Blairsville Police Department, Union General EMS and Blue Ridge Mountain EMC responded to the blaze, all coordinated by the professionals at the Union County E-911 Dispatch Center.



The blaze resulted in a total loss of the two sheds that caught fire, though fortunately, nobody was hurt. Photo by Shawn Jarrard



Union County Fire Chief David Dyer checking out the extent of the fire as his firefighters ready their equipment. Photo by Shawn Jarrard



Firefighters supplying water to extinguish the fire. Photo by Shawn Jarrard

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