

# Neighbors swift to act after blast

By **KIRK BARRON**  
Staff Writer

PARADISE — The heroic efforts by a group of young Paradise residents may have saved the life of a Paradise woman

after there was an explosion in her mobile home on Churchill Road Sunday.

Carol Bear was asleep in her home when there was an explosion just before 1 p.m. that engulfed the home in flames.

Bear was transported by helicopter to

the UC Davis Medical Center burn unit, where she was listed in serious condition Sunday night.

Shannon and Wylly Primer heard the explosion from their home and ran outside.

While Wylly called 9-1-1, Shannon went

to help Bear, who had made it outside despite severe burns to her hands and feet.

"She was screaming, 'My feet, I can't walk,'" Shannon said. "Some guy came

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and carried her out."

The Primers said they knew the burns were bad because the skin was hanging off Bear's feet.

In the chaos, Shannon said she didn't remember who carried Bear to safety, but she thought it was Eric Escalante.

Escalante said he wasn't the one who carried Bear to safety and didn't know who did.

Escalante was returning to his girlfriend Stacey Sheehan's house from a restaurant and saw flames shooting from the porch of Bear's house.

"I was pulling up and saw the fire. I told (Sheehan) to take the dog and get out of here," Escalante said. "I heard (Bear) screaming and kept hearing explosions."

Escalante quickly turned off the propane tanks for Bear's mobile home and a propane tank near the Primers' home when he saw the fire.

Another neighbor, Shandra Bare, also ran outside and called 9-1-1 moments after Wylly Primer did.

"I grabbed my keys and ran outside; I thought a tree had fallen," she said. "By that time there were flames coming out of the windows."

The Paradise Fire Department arrived about five minutes later but the mobile home had already begun to collapse, said fire Capt. Tom Drake.

"We were pretty much putting out a pile of burning leaves at that point," he said.

It isn't known what started the fire or the extent of Bear's injuries, but Drake said it looked like she had third-



Photos by Ty Barbour/Enterprise-Record

Paradise firefighters probe the walls of a mobile home that was destroyed by a fire Sunday.

degree burns on her hands and feet.

For a tense few minutes there was some concern that there might have been a second person in the mobile home. Kirk Cofer arrived on the scene looking for his son Scott Cofer, who lived with Bear.

Bear confirmed that she was the only person home, to the relief of the distraught father, though nobody knew where Scott Cofer was.

The fire destroyed the mobile home, causing about \$50,000 in damage. Three Paradise fire engines and one Chico fire engine responded to the blaze, which closed down part of Pearson Road.

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Rescue personnel prepare to load Carol Bear into a Marysville medical helicopter for transport to UC Davis Medical Center.