



Office of
Commissioner of Insurance

NEWS RELEASE

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FANNIN COUNTY FATAL FIRE RULED ACCIDENTAL

Atlanta – Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner Ralph Hudgens said an investigation by his office revealed that the cause of a Wednesday afternoon fatal house fire in Fannin County was an accident.

Don Joe Howard, 65, died in the fire at his home located at 216 Toccoa River Forest Lane, in Mineral Bluff, Ga. The investigation revealed that Howard was cooking on a camping stove inside his house and left food unattended, Commissioner Hudgens said.

Commissioner Hudgens said the fire was reported around 12:30 p.m. and the Fannin County Fire Department extinguished the blaze.

This death brings Georgia's fire fatality total to 90 for 2017.