



Office of
Commissioner of Insurance
NEWS RELEASE

Ralph Hudgens
Commissioner of Insurance
Safety Fire Commissioner
Industrial Loan Commissioner

James "Sloppy" Floyd Building
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive,
Suite 704 West Tower
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

For Immediate Release
October 4, 2017
Twitter: @GA_DOI

Contact: Glenn Allen
Office: 404-463-0729
www.oci.ga.gov

CATOOSA COUNTY FATAL FIRE RULED ACCIDENTAL

Atlanta – Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner Ralph Hudgens said an investigation by his office revealed that an Oct. 1 house fire that claimed the life of a Catoosa County man was caused by careless smoking.

James Burnette, 70, was severely injured in the fire at 95 Green Lake Circle, Rossville, Ga. The investigation revealed that Burnette was smoking a cigarette in bed while using medical oxygen equipment, Hudgens said. He was transported to Erlanger Hospital in Chattanooga, Tenn., where he later died.

The fire was reported around 2 a.m. The Catoosa County Fire Department extinguished the blaze.