



Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner

NEWS RELEASE

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JACKSON COUNTY HOUSE FIRE KILLS ELDERLY MAN

Atlanta – State Fire Investigators with the Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner’s office, have ruled a Wednesday morning fatal house fire in Jackson County accidental.

Killed in the 10:17 a.m. fire was Leroy Johnson, 80. His home located at 186 Ivie Street, in Jefferson, Ga., was destroyed by the blaze. The Jackson County E-911 Dispatch was informed of the fire by a neighbor.

The investigation revealed the fire was caused by the improper use of smoking materials, Deputy Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner Jay Florence said. A firefighter with the Jefferson Fire Department found the victim’s body in a bedroom of the home. State Fire Investigators believe Mr. Johnson was smoking while in bed.

The Jefferson Fire Department and the Jackson County Coroner’s Office assisted with the investigation.