



Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner

NEWS RELEASE

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HUDGENS INVESTIGATING FATAL FIRE IN JACKSON COUNTY

Atlanta – Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner Ralph Hudgens’ office, is investigating a weekend house fire in Jackson County that claimed the life of an elderly man and injured a woman.

Killed by the Saturday evening fire was Patrick Emerson, 78. His home located at 91 Leigh Street in Commerce, Ga., was destroyed. An occupant of the home, Catherine King, 49, sustained minor burns and smoke inhalation and was transported to Athens Regional Hospital. Her condition at this time is unknown.

The fire is believed to be accidental, but the cause is still under investigation, Hudgens said. There was no electrical power to the residence, and the occupants were using candles for light. State Fire Investigators found no evidence of working smoke detectors in the home.