



Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner

NEWS RELEASE

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FATAL COLUMBIA COUNTY FIRE RULED ACCIDENTAL

Atlanta, Ga. – A Fire Investigator with Insurance Commissioner Ralph Hudgens office has ruled a Friday evening fatal house fire in Columbia County accidental.

Killed yesterday in the 6:45 p.m. fire was Robert Malone, and his wife, Mavis Malone. The two-story home, located in the 6900 block of Cottonwood Drive in Appling, Ga., was destroyed.

The body of the male victim was discovered in the kitchen of the home, and the adult female was found in a bedroom.

"My Investigators determined that the fire originated on a stove in the kitchen of the home," Hudgens said. "The fire was the result of unattended cooking."

In 2018, 21 Georgians have died in residential fires.