



NEWS RELEASE

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HUDGENS PRESENTS WINNERS OF 2013 "LIFE, FIRE, AND SAFETY" AWARDS

Atlanta – Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner Ralph Hudgens today announced the winners of the annual "Excellence in Fire Safety" awards, and the student winners of the statewide Fire Safety Poster and Essay contests.

Commissioner Hudgens will present the awards at the 2013 "Life, Fire, and Safety" Awards Luncheon on October 28th at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center in Forsyth, Georgia. This annual event is held in conjunction with the observance of National Fire Prevention Month.

"Every year, we honor fire professionals and civilians who have made an effort to improve fire safety for all of us," Hudgens said, "and we honor those students who take fire safety seriously enough to teach others through creative art and writing."

Winners of the "2013 Excellence in Fire Safety" Awards:

- **Firefighter of the Year** – Samuel Landau, DeKalb County Fire and Rescue
- **Fire Official of the Year** – Scott Bishop, Douglas County Fire Department
- **Fire Safety Educator of the Year** – Scott Dakin, Barrow County Emergency Services
- **Fire Safety Prevention Program of the Year** – DeKalb County Fire and Rescue Department
- **Citizen Award of Courage** (17 and under) – Tasha Allen, Decatur
- **Citizen Award of Courage** (18 and older) – Zna Gresham, Decatur

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Fire Safety Award winners

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Contestants in the poster and essays contests were required to reflect this year's theme, "Prevent Kitchen Fires," in the entries they submitted.

First-place winners of the Fire Safety Poster Contest:

- **Kindergarten** – Brittany Martinez – Wheeler County Elementary School, Alamo
- **1st Grade** – Kolt Bell – Wheeler County Elementary School, Alamo
- **2nd Grade** – Molly Bridges – Wheeler County Elementary, Alamo
- **3rd Grade** – Kelly Hanna Jeong – Wilson Creek Elementary School, Johns Creek
- **4th Grade** – Olivia Maddox – Clear Creek Elementary School, Cartersville
- **5th Grade** – Samantha Nelson – Armuchee Elementary School, Rome

Winner of the Fire Safety House Essay Contest, open to all students from Kindergarten to Fifth Grade, was **Alice Hughes**, Sharon Elementary School, Loganville.

First-place winners of the Fire Safety Essay:

- **6th Grade** – John Burkhalter, II – Dodge County Middle School, Eastman
- **7th Grade** – Hannah Hardison – Jasper County Middle School, Jasper
- **8th Grade** – Erika Wright – Sumter County Middle School, Americus
- **9th Grade** – Carson Flake – Faith Christian Academy, Griffin
- **10th Grade** – Michael D. Brown – Monroe County Achievement Center, Forsyth
- **11th Grade** – Katie Owens, Evans High School, Evans
- **12th Grade** – Aaliyah Wright, Marion County High School, Buena Vista

Second-place winners of the Fire Safety Poster Contest:

- **Kindergarten** – Alaina Brittan – Austin Road Elementary School, Stockbridge
- **1st Grade** – Miles Martin – Russell Elementary School, Smyrna
- **2nd Grade** – Elijah Coleman – Sarah Cobb Elementary School, Americus
- **3rd Grade** – Megan Csoke – Vaughan Elementary School, Powder Springs
- **4th Grade** – Julianna Hayunga – Oconee County Elementary School, Watkinsville
- **5th Grade** – Hayle Singleton – Armuchee Elementary School, Rome

Second-place winner of the Fire Safety House Essay Contest:

- **3rd Grade** – Avery Dorn – Greenbrier Elementary School, Evans

Second-place winners of the Fire Safety Essay Contest:

- **6th Grade** – Vennela Sai – Feagin Mill Middle School, Warner Robins
- **7th Grade** – Madison High – Ivy Preparatory Academy, Norcross
- **8th Grade** – George Harrison – Feagin Mill Middle School, Warner Robins
- **9th Grade** – Ally Orenstein – Valdosta High School, Valdosta
- **10th Grade** – Luukas Alakulppi – Valdosta High School, Valdosta
- **11th Grade** – Ryker Ursrey – Valdosta High School, Valdosta
- **12th Grade** – Ty Haynes – Valdosta High School, Valdosta

Third-place winners of the Fire Safety Poster Contest:

- **Kindergarten** – Susannah Murray – Crescent Elementary School, Griffin
- **1st Grade** – Michael Holley – Pike County Elementary School, Zebulon
- **2nd Grade** – Ileana Clark – Pike County Elementary School, Zebulon
- **3rd Grade** – Daniel Juarez – Anderson Elementary School, Clayton
- **4th Grade** – Haven Lee – Putnam County Elementary School, Eatonton
- **5th Grade** – Shelby Biggar – Putnam County Elementary School, Eatonton

Third-place winner of the Fire Safety House Essay Contest:

- **3rd Grade** – Baily Negus – W.G. Nunn Elementary School, Valdosta

Third-place winners of the Fire Safety Essay Contest:

- **6th Grade** – Connor Evans – Dodge County Middle School, Eastman
- **7th Grade** – Laura Swancey – Jasper Middle School, Jasper
- **8th Grade** – Tamiya Durham – Sumter County Middle School, Americus
- **9th Grade** – Landon Bryant – Monroe County Achievement Center, Forsyth
- **10th Grade** – Kelsey Meaney – Georgia Cyber Academy, Georgia
- **11th Grade** – Baily Roesch – Valdosta High School, Valdosta
- **12th Grade** – Theadora Black – Evans High School, Evans

2014 Fire Safety Tips Calendar Contest Winners:

- **Cover** – Kelly Hanna Jeong, 3rd Grade – Wilson Creek Elementary School, Johns Creek
- **January** – Alexis Frey – 4th Grade Taylors Creek Elementary School, Hinesville
- **February** – Ailien Sarex- Perez – 5th Grade – Oakcliff Theme School, DeKalb
- **March** – Jada Hawkins, 2nd Grade – Pike County Primary School – Zebulon
- **April** – Paulina Viniegra, 5th Grade – Oakcliff Theme School, DeKalb
- **May** – Kolt Caldwell, 3rd Grade – Wheeler County Elementary School, Alamo
- **June** – Samantha Lounsbury, 5th Grade – Eastside Elementary School, Marietta
- **July** – Jin Li, 4th Grade – Oakcliff Theme School, DeKalb
- **August** – Glory Olowjoba, 5th Grade – Oakcliff Theme School, DeKalb
- **September** – Amelia Smith, 2nd Grade, Oakcliff Theme School, DeKalb
- **October** – Luke Mann, 2nd Grade, Oakcliff Theme School, DeKalb
- **November** – Morgan Miller, 5th Grade, Southwest Elementary School, Savannah
- **December** – Desha Rogers-Givens, 4th Grade, Oakcliff Theme School, DeKalb

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