



Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner

NEWS RELEASE

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COLUMBIA COUNTY FATAL FIRE RULED ACCIDENTAL

Atlanta – The Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner’s Office has ruled a Tuesday morning fatal fire in Columbia County accidental and determined that a portable cooking device started the blaze.

Charles Dorsey, 57, was killed by the fire inside his house located at 5507 Leopard Lane, in Appling, Ga. The investigation revealed that a portable double burner hot plate the victim was using to heat the home ignited flammable materials starting the deadly blaze.

Deputy Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner Jay Florence said the fire was reported around 7:53 a.m. and extinguished by the Columbia County Fire Department. The fatality is Georgia's first reported fire death for 2018.