



INSURANCE AND SAFETY FIRE COMMISSIONER

- State of Georgia -

NEWS RELEASE

John F. King

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CHATHAM COUNTY FATAL FIRE UNDER INVESTIGATION

ATLANTA – Shortly before 2:00 P.M. on the afternoon of July 5, Chatham County Emergency Services responded to a residential fire at 160 Mark Circle near the city of Savannah in Chatham County. When they arrived on scene, the roof of the 18-year-old, 1,680-square-foot mobile home was entirely ablaze, with the rest of the home suffering significant fire damage.

After extinguishing the fire, responders discovered the body of an elderly victim on the floor of one of the bedrooms. The body was immediately transferred to the GBI Crime Lab in Pooler for an autopsy, which indicated smoke and soot inhalation as the cause of death. Positive identification of the victim is still pending at this time.

“Investigators with our office and Chatham County Emergency Services discovered significant damage to a window air conditioning unit in the bedroom where the victim was found,” said Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner John F. King. “Unfortunately, there was also evidence of heavy smoking in the bedroom in question.”

Commissioner King’s Fire Investigations Unit is assisting Chatham County Emergency Services and the Chatham County Police Department with this investigation. At this time, no criminal intent is suspected.

There have been 48 reported fire fatalities in Georgia in 2020.



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The mission of the Office of the Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner is to protect Georgia families by providing access to vital insurance products and safe buildings through fair regulation that creates economic opportunities for all Georgians.