



INSURANCE AND SAFETY FIRE COMMISSIONER

- State of Georgia -

NEWS RELEASE

John F. King

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Safety Fire Commissioner
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DECATUR COUNTY FATAL FIRE CAUSED BY SPACE HEATER

ATLANTA – Around 8:40 A.M on the morning of November 18, the Decatur County Fire Department responded to a residential fire located at 156 Simmons-McIntyre Road in Attapulgus, Georgia. When emergency personnel made their way inside the home, they discovered the body of Bobby Simmons, 68, of Attapulgus.

“The investigation revealed that the fire was started by a space heater, which would make this the third death in less than one week caused by these devices,” said Safety Fire Commissioner John F. King. “Please remember to [be very careful when using space heaters this winter](#). Though they can provide temporary comfort, when not used properly they can be extremely dangerous.”

The 50-year-old mobile home suffered extensive damage from the blaze. No smoke detectors were found in the home. The body of the deceased was transported by the Decatur County Coroner’s Office to the GBI Crime Lab in Macon, where an autopsy report is to be conducted.

Investigators with the Safety Fire Commissioner’s Office are assisting the Decatur County Fire Department and the Decatur County Sheriff’s Office with this investigation.

In 2019, Georgia fires have claimed the lives of 78 individuals.



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