

For Immediate Release

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## INSURANCE AND SAFETY FIRE COMMISSIONER

- State of Georgia -

## **NEWS RELEASE**

John F. King

Commissioner of Insurance Safety Fire Commissioner Industrial Loan Commissioner

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## JASPER COUNTY FATAL FIRE RULED ACCIDENTAL

**ATLANTA** – Shortly after 11:20 P.M. on May 6, the Jasper County Fire Department responded to a residential fire off of Holman Road in Monticello, Georgia. When they made their way inside the home, they discovered the body of Barbara Hix, 81, inside one of the bedrooms.

"It has been determined that the fire originated in the kitchen of the home. The exact cause of the fire is unknown, but an electric space heater was found in the room where the victim was located and heating elements on the stove had been left on," said Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner John F. King. "This unfortunate fire will be classified as accidental."

Commissioner King's Fire Investigations Unit assisted the Jasper County Fire Department and the Jasper County Sheriff's Office with this investigation.

There have been 37 fire fatalities in Georgia in 2020.

