



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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STEPHENS COUNTY FATAL FIRE UNDER INVESTIGATION

ATLANTA – Shortly after 2:30 A.M. on the morning of September 17, Big Smith Volunteer Fire Department responded to a residential fire located at 3494 Oak Valley Road, Lot # 28, in Toccoa, Georgia. When emergency personnel made their way inside the camper, they found the body of who they believe to be Richard Broker, 80, of Toccoa, Georgia.

“The 27 foot camper was parked at the Toccoa RV Park when the fire occurred. Right now, careless smoking cannot be eliminated as the cause,” said Safety Fire Commissioner John F. King. “The suspected victim was on oxygen and was known to be a heavy smoker. No foul play is suspected.”

The body of the deceased was sent to the GBI Crime Lab for autopsy and positive identification. Due to the condition of the body, further tests are to be conducted before an exact identification is made.

Investigators with the Safety Fire Commissioner’s Office are assisting the Big Smith Volunteer Fire Department, Stephens County Coroner’s Office, and Stephens County Sheriff’s Office with this investigation.

In 2019, Georgia fires have claimed the lives of 60 individuals.



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