



INSURANCE AND SAFETY FIRE COMMISSIONER

- State of Georgia -

NEWS RELEASE

John F. King

Commissioner of Insurance
Safety Fire Commissioner
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WALKER COUNTY FATAL FIRE RULED ACCIDENTAL

ATLANTA – Around 11:30 P.M. on the night of March 5, the City of LaFayette Fire Department responded to a residential fire off of Fortune Street in LaFayette, Georgia. When emergency personnel made their way inside the home, they discovered the body of John Wiley, 23, in one of the bedrooms.

“It has been determined that the fire originated in the immediate area of the refrigerator and water heater. The 32-year-old, 900 square foot home was completely destroyed by the blaze,” said Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner John F. King. “The cause of this unfortunate fire has been ruled accidental. No smoke detectors were located in the home following the investigation.”

Commissioner King’s Fire Investigations Unit assisted the City of LaFayette Fire Department and the City of LaFayette Police Department with this investigation.

Wiley is the twenty-fourth victim to perish in a Georgia fire in 2020. No working smoke detectors were found in nineteen of the twenty-two fatal fires so far this year.



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