



**Office of Commissioner of  
Insurance and Safety Fire**  
Protect | Enforce | Educate | Inform

**JOHN F. KING**  
*Commissioner of Insurance  
and Safety Fire*

Two Martin Luther King Jr. Drive  
West Tower, Suite 702  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

## ***NEWS RELEASE***

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**For Immediate Release**

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Contact: Weston Burleson, 404-232-1388

Twitter: @GA\_DOI

Facebook: @GeorgiaDOI

Instagram: @GeorgiaDOI

### **Upson County Man Killed in Residential Fire**

**ATLANTA** – Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner John F. King announced today that one person was killed in an Upson County fire. The fire occurred at 202 Avenue L in Thomaston, GA, around 1:20 a.m. on Wednesday, February 24. The single-story, 78-year-old, 896 sq. ft. wood-framed structure was fully engulfed in flames when the first responders arrived.

“The deceased, Joseph Lawson, 43, was found in the front area of the structure,” said Commissioner King. “The cause of this tragic event is still under investigation, and our team is assisting the Thomaston Fire Department, the Thomaston Police Department, and the Upson County Coroner in this matter.”

Mr. Lawson’s body was turned over to the Upson County Coroner and transported to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation’s crime lab in Atlanta for autopsy. This marks the 30<sup>th</sup> death from a Georgia fire in 2021.



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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.*