



NEWS RELEASE

RALPH HUDGENS
COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE
SAFETY FIRE COMMISSIONER
INDUSTRIAL LOAN COMMISSIONER

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For Immediate Release
February 19, 2016

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HUDGENS ISSUES RULING ON FATAL SPALDING CO. HOUSE FIRE

Atlanta – Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner Ralph Hudgens said an early morning house fire in Spaulding County that resulted in the death of a juvenile has been ruled accidental.

Killed in the fire was 6-year-old Franklin Freeman, Jr. Freeman's 14-year-old brother was able to escape the blaze unharmed through a window with the help of Spalding County sheriff's deputy and a neighbor. He was taken to a hospital out of precaution.

"The fire originated in the kitchen area of the home," Hudgens said. "The exact cause was an electrical malfunction in the wall near a microwave oven."

The fire, which occurred around 8:30 a.m., destroyed the home located at 1036 School Road, in Griffin.

Hudgens said fire investigators from his office worked with the Spalding County Sheriff's Office and the Spalding County Fire Department.

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