



NEWS RELEASE

RALPH HUDGENS
COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE
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INDUSTRIAL LOAN COMMISSIONER

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HUDGENS: FATAL FIRE IN JEFFERSON COUNTY RULED UNDETERMINED

Atlanta – Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner Ralph Hudgens’ office have ruled a Sunday morning house fire in Jefferson County that left a wheelchair-bound woman dead undetermined.

Discovered in the fire was Frances Warthen, 68. The house, located at 1112 John Davis Road, near Louisville, Ga., was destroyed. The fire was reported by a neighbor around 8:51 a.m.

“Because of extensive damage to the home, my fire investigators were unable to determine the exact cause, Hudgens said.” “Investigators found nothing suspicious about the origin of this tragic fire and believe that an electrical malfunction or space heater potential may have started the blaze.”

The results of a preliminary autopsy showed Warthen died of heavy smoke and soot inhalation.

The Louisville Fire Department, Hillcrest Fire Department, and Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office worked with Hudgens’ office on the case.

This is the 14th reported fire fatal in Georgia for 2015.