



**Office of  
Commissioner of Insurance**

**Ralph Hudgens**  
*Commissioner of Insurance  
Safety Fire Commissioner  
Industrial Loan Commissioner*

**NEWS RELEASE**

*James "Sloppy" Floyd Building  
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Atlanta, Georgia 30334*

**October 25, 2016  
For Immediate Release**

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**WAYNE COUNTY FATAL FIRE RULED ACCIDENTAL**

**Atlanta** – Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner Ralph Hudgens said an investigation by his office revealed that an Oct. 22 house fire that claimed the life of a Wayne County man was caused by careless smoking.

Larry Clifton Bell, 70, was severely injured in the fire at his home located at 113 Mayfair Street, Jesup, Georgia. The investigation revealed that Bell was smoking a cigarette while oxygen equipment was in use which caused his clothes and a couch to ignite. He was transported to the August Burn Center where he later died.

Commissioner Hudgens said the fire was reported around 7:30 p.m. The Jesup Fire Department extinguished the blaze.