

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Attic Fire to Blame for Oxford Woman's Death

JACKSON, Miss. – Investigators believe an accidental fire that started in the attic of a single-story home is to blame for the death of 35-year-old Monique Creshaun Gardener on County Road 369 in Lafayette County. The fire was reported on Sunday, August 9, 2026, around 4:30 a.m.

There have been 53 fire deaths so far in 2026. In at least 34 of those deaths, there were no working smoke alarms.

- Smoke alarms should be placed in every sleeping area and common hallways and on every level of the home.
 - Large homes may need extra smoke alarms.
 - A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall.
 - Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. They should be at least 10 feet from the stove.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button.
- Make sure everyone in the home understands the sound of the smoke alarm and knows how to respond.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.
- Replace the smoke alarm immediately if it doesn't respond properly when tested.
- Create an escape plan and make sure all family members know where to meet once they are out of the home.

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