

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA CONTACT

Beth Reiss

Communications Director

State Fire Marshal's Office

beth.reiss@mid.ms.gov

601-359-2403

Weekend Fire Deaths Bring Total to 63 Statewide

JACKSON, Miss. – The first of three fires happened in Leflore County on Friday, October 16, 2026. The Greenwood Fire Department responded to Falcon Street in Greenwood, Miss., where they found 78-year-old Donnie Martin Williams in her bedroom. State Fire Marshal Office (SFMO) investigators have ruled the fire accidental, caused by smoking while using oxygen.

Another fire was reported before 11 a.m. Sunday, October 18, 2026, on Morgan Lane in Purvis, Miss. 80-year-old Sarah Trujillo Shows was found in the Lamar County home along with two dogs. The Oak Grove Volunteer Fire Department responded to the fire at the double-wide manufactured home, which is a total loss. SFMO investigators believe the fire started outside the residence near the right rear corner before spreading inside. This fire is still under investigation.

In Panola County, fire claimed the life of 65-year-old George David Miles. The fire happened around 12:30 p.m. Sunday on B Benson Road in Courtland, Miss. The wood-frame home was destroyed by the fire. According to a witness, Mr. Miles came out of the house, retrieved a bucket, and went back inside. Deputies believe Miles may have been trying to put out the fire. Miles never came out of the house again, a sad reminder to never go into a burning home for any reason. This fire is still under investigation.

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