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Clinton Fire Started Outside, Caused by Smoking Materials

JACKSON, Miss. – The State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) has determined the cause of a fire at Brookdale Senior Living in Clinton, Miss., that happened on Wednesday, October 21, 2026.

The fire started outside, near the maintenance office entrance, then spread inside to a residential area. The most probable cause of the fire was inappropriate disposal of smoking materials. The fire spread quickly because of combustible materials stored at the entrance to the maintenance office. Those items included a mattress, box springs, and other household items. Smoke alarms were present and working. The building had a fire suppression system in place, and emergency officials were notified early by the fire alarm company.

"I want to offer my sincere condolences to the families and loved ones of Mrs. Laird and Mr. Anthony. Our thoughts are with everyone affected by this tragedy," said State Fire Marshal and Insurance Commissioner Mike Chaney.

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