



NEWS RELEASE

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HUDGENS: WORTH COUNTY MAN SENTENCED FOR MURDER/ARSON

Atlanta – Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner Ralph Hudgens announced today that a Worth County man has been sentenced to life in prison with the possibility for parole after 30 years for a 2012 murder and arson.

Hudgens said Michael Carlisle, 33, plead guilty and was sentenced on June 3 in Worth County Superior Court on murder and first-degree arson charges for killing Gregory Fulgham, 50, on September 5, 2012, then set Fulgham’s home on fire. The mobile home located at 5407 Fortune Road, Sylvester, Ga., was destroyed by the blaze.

“The sentence in this case fits the crime of murder,” Hudgens said. “I feel that justice has been done, and I appreciate the work the District Attorney’s Office and other agencies did on this case.”

Investigators credits Hudgens’ Arson Accelerant K-9 “Ava” for helping to solve the murder. Ava was able to detect an ignitable liquid on Carlisle’s clothing as well as in the area where the victim’s body was discovered.

Ava, a 3-year-old black Labrador, and human partner were trained to work as a team, sniffing out petrochemical-based accelerants.

The Fire Investigation Unit of Commissioner Hudgens’ office assisted the Georgia Bureau of Investigation and the Worth County Sheriff’s Office in this case. The investigative teamwork between these agencies coupled with community support, significantly contributed to the arrest, and prosecution of Carlisle.