



ATLANTA

Woman escapes 2nd fire in a week

Fire crews able to douse flames; no major injuries as blaze claims home.

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A woman whose home was damaged in a fire a week ago found herself escaping a second fire that left two others without a home Tuesday morning.

Jerri Lee had been staying with a woman a few doors down from her own home after her house in the Audobon Forest neighborhood of southwest Atlanta was lost to a lightning strike, she said. Early Tuesday morning, Atlanta fire crews found heavy smoke coming from the roof of the home of Lee's neighbor in the 800 block of Oriole Drive.

Firefighters were able to quickly put out the fire, and no burn injuries were reported, Atlanta fire Battalion Chief Deaunte Grier told The Atlanta Journal-Constitution at the scene.

One woman, Liza Milagro, was suffering from smoke inhalation and was taken to a hospital.

Milagro's daughter also was in the house but was uninjured. It was not clear how old her daughter is.

"The most challenging part of this fire was the fire being in the attic of the location. It was just hard to find, just hard to get to," Grier said. "But units quickly got in and found the location and were able to get into the attic and put it out quickly."

The cause of the blaze remains under investigation.

Lee, who had been staying in the house with her two dogs, said she was in the shower when the fire broke out around 6:30 a.m. Standing outside the charred home Tuesday, she found herself homeless once again.

"Right now the only thing that's going through my mind is that God has saved me and brought me through two fires in less than a week to do something good," Lee said. "I have a mission. That's all I can say is I have a mission."



LEFT: Atlanta fire crews bring the blaze under control after they found heavy smoke coming from the roof of a home in the 800 block of Oriole Drive. No burn injuries were reported, though one woman was treated for smoke inhalation. **RIGHT:** Atlanta firefighter Jonathan Robinson helps Jerri Lee, who, along with her two dogs, had been temporarily staying in the Oriole Drive home. Lee said she would now be on a mission to "do something good" after God saved her from both fires. JOHN SPINK/JOHN.SPINK@AJC.COM



ATLANTA

MARTA gets \$19.3M to buy electric buses

MARTA and two other Georgia transit agencies will receive \$31 million in grants for electric buses and equipment, the Federal Transit Administration announced Tuesday.

MARTA will get \$19.3 million to buy battery electric buses and charging equipment to replace older compressed natural gas buses. The FTA says the money will improve air quality in the Atlanta area and support a two-year apprenticeship program with local technical colleges.

Augusta-Richmond County will receive \$6.3 million for electric buses and equipment to replace aging diesel buses. The Chatham Area Transit Authority will get \$5.5 million for electric buses and equipment.

The Georgia grants were among the \$1.7 billion in funding the FTA announced Tuesday for bus fleets and facilities. The money comes from programs included in the infrastructure law Congress passed last year.

Among other things, the money will help pay for more than 1,100 vehicles that use zero-emissions technology. The FTA says the funding will nearly double the number of "clean" buses on American roads.

— DAVID WICKERT

Man found shot dead in road next to truck

A 28-year-old man found lying in the middle of a southeast Atlanta road on Monday night was fatally shot, according to police.

Atlanta police are investigating the death as a homicide, a department spokesman confirmed in a statement. According to Channel 2 Action News, a passing driver spotted the man around 11:15 p.m. lying next to a U-Haul truck in the 700 block of Hutchens Road.

The victim, who was identified by the Fulton County Medical Examiner's Office as Marcus Brandon, was pronounced dead at the scene. Homicide investigators told Channel 2 the man was likely the driver or an occupant of the rental truck.

No further details were released Tuesday.

— CHELSEA PRINCE

COBB COUNTY

Body recovered from Chattahoochee River

Recovery crews from Atlanta and Cobb County pulled a man's body from the Chattahoochee River on Monday night, officials said.

Atlanta fire crews were first alerted to a body floating face down in the river near I-75 North and Mount Paran Road around 6:30 p.m. They responded a mile north of the Paces Mill boat ramp, which is in Cobb County's jurisdiction.

The scene was at that point turned over to the Cobb County Fire Department,

ON THE SCENE: COBB COUNTY



Making core memories: First day of school at KSU

TOP: Students line up to receive an owl for the "stuff an owl" giveaway Monday, the first day of fall classes at the Kennesaw State University Marietta campus.

RIGHT: Kennesaw State senior Ted Sanchez gets his photo taken Monday with Scrappy, the KSU mascot, at the Globe during the first day of fall semester classes at Kennesaw State University in Marietta.

PHOTOS BY JASON GETZ/
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ment, Atlanta fire officials said in a news release.

Nearly four hours later, Atlanta fire crews were called again when the recovery effort crossed back into the city in the 2200 block of West Wesley Road. The body was pulled from the water at about 10:20 p.m., according to the news release.

A spokesperson for the Cobb agency said it provided "resources and manpower assistance" in Atlanta's jurisdiction and was not investigating further.

The victim's name was not released.

— CHELSEA PRINCE

Man killed, 2 others injured in car crash

A 19-year-old man was killed and two other teenagers were injured Sunday in a Cobb County crash, police said.

The wreck occurred about 10:10 p.m. along Chastain Meadows Parkway near

Big Shanty Road when a Honda Accord driven by Donovan Williams crossed into the opposite lane around a curve, Cobb police spokesman J. Aaron Wilson said. An 18-year-old and a 19-year-old also were in the car.

The driver's side of the Accord struck the front of a southbound Honda Insight, and the Accord began to roll, Wilson said. It eventually came to rest on its roof, killing Williams.

"Investigators believe that speed was a factor in the collision," Wilson said.

Williams, of Dacula, was pronounced dead at the scene. The two other passengers in the Accord were taken to Wellstar Kennestone Hospital with injuries that were not considered life-threatening.

The driver and passenger in the Honda Insight, both 20, declined to be taken to the hospital and were not "immediately injured," Wilson said.

The collision remains under investigation and anyone with information

is asked to contact the Cobb County Police Department at 770-499-3987.

— CAROLINE SILVA

DEKALB COUNTY

Decatur police seek IDs in deadly hit-and-run

A man attempting to cross a busy Decatur street was struck and killed by a driver who didn't stop, police said Tuesday.

Now, investigators need the public's help to identify both the driver and the man who was killed.

The collision occurred around 11:35 p.m. Monday at the intersection of Scott Boulevard and Clairmont Avenue, according to Decatur police. Investigators believe a man was hit by a westbound vehicle while he was attempting to cross Scott Boulevard.

The man was in the crosswalk at the time, police said in a news release. Investigators have not yet been able to determine the type of vehicle involved.

The pedestrian was seriously injured and died from his injuries at a local hospital, according to police. He did not have identification on him at the time of the crash.

Anyone with information on the man's identity or who may have witnessed the crash is asked to contact Decatur police at 404-373-6551. Tipsters can remain anonymous, and be eligible for rewards of up to \$2,000, by contacting Crime Stoppers Atlanta at 404-577-8477, texting information to 274637 or visiting the Crime Stoppers website at atlantapolicfoundation.org.

— ALEXIS STEVENS

Two suspects arrested in murder at apartment

Two people linked to the fatal shooting of a man at a DeKalb County apartment complex last week have been arrested on charges of murder, police announced Monday.

Darius Arnold, 38, died Thursday after being shot multiple times at the Oak Forest Apartments on Hatton Drive, according to DeKalb police. Officers discovered the victim lying in a grassy area behind a building after responding to the complex shortly after 2:30 a.m. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

During their initial investigation, police officials said it was not clear how Arnold was linked to the Scottdale apartment complex, and no updates have been provided regarding the circumstances of his death.

By the end of the day Thursday, the first suspect was arrested, police said Monday in a social media post. Following that arrest, the investigation led police to identify a second suspect, who was arrested Saturday.

With the two arrests, "all suspects are now in custody," according to police. The names of those arrested were not released.

DeKalb police representatives did not respond to requests for updates Monday night.

— HENRI HOLLIS