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Atchison Fire Victim Died of Smoke Inhalation

(KAIR) -- The elderly woman killed in a fire early Thursday morning in Atchison died from smoke inhalation.

The Atchison Fire Department said a coroner's report revealed 75-year-old Sharon Ferris was overcome with smoke at her home in the 400 hundred block of Smith Street.

Fire crews responded to Ferris' residence around 3:45 Thursday morning after two people passing by saw smoke coming from the upstairs bedroom.

Nick Mullins and his girlfriend went into the house prior to crews arriving to see if anyone was home. (Play Audio)

The fire was confined to the bedroom where Ferris was discovered.

Atchison Fire Chief Mike McDermed says a smoke detector was in the residence, but it wasn't connected properly.

While an official cause to the fire remains under investigation by the Kansas Fire Marshal's Office, McDermed did confirm space heaters were discovered inside the residence.

Funeral services for Ferris are pending at the Arensberg-Pruett Funeral Home in Atchison.

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