

2 die in fire on Heflin Road

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An 81-year-old woman and the daughter who lived with her are dead after a fast-moving fire swept through their mobile home yesterday. The fire started in the kitchen of the home on Heflin Road, off Highway 15-501 and two miles from the Hoke County Line. Wednesday Morning a woman called 9-1-1 to report that her home was on fire and that she was trapped inside. Firemen arrived within minutes but by then the modest two-story home was engulfed in flames. Investigators found the bodies of Judith Seabolt and her 60-year-old Daughter, Patricia Rogers, in the smoking rubble. "She was always a beautiful lady. She had classic features," said Mary Smith, a longtime friend of Seabolt's. Smith said Seabolt's husband died several years ago, and Rogers moved in to care for her mother. "She just sort of wore out," Smith said of Seabolt. "She was just depressed and got very thin." A neighbor Dorothy Hudson, says she will miss the small talk and little visits with the two women. "They were just quiet people," says Hudson of her neighbors. "I would go sit on the swing with them and talk." Investigators today are trying to determine what caused the fire and why the women couldn't escape.