

# Pickens County Coroner's Office

## News Release

**Incident Type:** House Fire - Fatality  
**Incident Date:** March 23, 2003  
**Incident Time:** approximately 10:30 PM  
**Incident Location:** 2363 Table Rock Road, Pickens, SC  
**Victim:** Maxwell Cruise Casto, age 12

### **Incident Narrative:**

At 10:57 PM, the Pickens County Communications Center received a call from a residential neighbor reporting a house fire at the above listed address. The first emergency response unit arriving at the scene at 11:07 PM reported that the structure was fully involved. Firefighters from the Pumpkintown Fire Department, Holly Springs Fire Department, Dacusville Fire Department and the Pickens Fire Department responded to extinguish the fire. Emergency personnel on scene determined that three persons had been inside the residence at the time of the fire. The two other persons, brothers of the deceased, Nicholas Casto, age 20 and Jarrod Casto, age 14, were able to escape safely from the residence. Once the fire had been extinguished, the body of Maxwell Casto was located in an upstairs bedroom of the wood frame residence.

Deputy Coroner Phillip Snow pronounced the victim dead at the scene. He was transported to Greenville Memorial Hospital for an autopsy.

The autopsy has determined that Maxwell Casto died from smoke inhalation and thermal burns. The cause and origin of the fire is still under investigation by the Pumpkintown Fire Department, The Pickens County Sheriff's Office and the Pickens County Coroner's Office with the assistance of SLED fire investigators.

Phillip A. Snow, Deputy Coroner  
3/24/2003, 2000 hours