



## GLOUCESTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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*Sheriff*



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### For Immediate Release

Gloucester Volunteer Fire and Rescue has requested that the Gloucester County Sheriff's Office assist with a release to the press in regards to the structure fire which occurred on January 16, 2013, claiming the lives of four individuals. On 01/16/13 a call was received through the Gloucester Communications Center that there was a substantial structure fire in the 6000 Block of Summerville Drive located in the central portion of Gloucester County. It was reported that there were initially six occupants within the structure, and only three were able to exit the structure safely. Approximately six minutes after receiving the initial call, three Sheriff's Office Deputies and fire personnel simultaneously arrived on scene to find the structure was fully engulfed in flames. On scene deputies received word that an adult went back into the structure in an effort to rescue the children and was still inside the burning structure. Sadly, three children ages 7, 2, and 6 months and the grandmother of the children (unknown age at this time) perished in the fire. In order to provide privacy to the family members during this tragic event we are not releasing names of those who are deceased, but we have confirmed that they are the residents of this structure. Positive identification of each victim is pending the medical examiners review and report. The other two adults who were in the structure were transported to the hospital and are reported to have sustained non-life threatening injuries and are in stable condition. Our agency and the Virginia State Police are working in collaboration to determine the cause and origin of the fire. At this time, although too early for release, the preliminary investigation suggests that this fire was accidental in nature.