



## Electrical Fires Reported After New Digital Meters Installed; Fire Dept Monitoring It

By [RomeNewswire](#) • on February 5, 2009

E-mails and rumors have been making the rounds in Floyd County recently that the new digital electrical meters installed by Georgia Power are causing house fires, and Fire Chief Gordon Henderson said local fire officials are monitoring it.

As recent as Thursday morning a fire was sparked in the breaker box of a home in Lindale, and though the damage was relatively minor, the fire has caused some concern among friends and neighbors.

Lou Ann Aylor, the next door neighbor of the homeowner on South Second Street in Lindale, sent out an e-mail to a long list of people, who then forwarded it on to others Thursday morning.

“This morning my neighbor had an electrical fire at his electrical panel inside his home causing damage to the wiring in the box and smoke damage. ... He said that the firemen told him they are keeping records and turning in their findings to the electric company.”

Henderson said he didn't know if the cause of the fire Thursday morning has anything to do with the new digital meter, but he did say, “I do know for some reason we have had some fires where they have put those new meters in ... and that's something we're looking into.”

He went on to explain that he doesn't think the meters are necessarily the problem, but that perhaps the devices may help expose other problems. He said that over time wires can become loose, and other problems can occur, which can cause fires. In her e-mail, Aylor worried what would have happened had her neighbor not been home and warned those who would receive the message.

“But what if no one is home when this starts or it happens during the night? Make sure your smoke alarms are working and maybe make sure your neighbors know how to reach you and get your pets out of your home in case of a fire,” she wrote.

We are waiting on a return call from Georgia Power for comment.