

80 -YEAR-OLD NEIGHBOR DIES IN SUSPECTED ARSON

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Detroit Fire Department investigators are trying to determine whether someone lit a fire in a vacant house on Detroit's west side that **killed** an **80** -year-old **woman** who lived next door.

A dog trained to sniff for accelerants was to be on the scene of the fire this morning in the 6500 block of Forrer, Detroit Fire Capt. Steven Varnas said. Located northeast of Ford Road and the Southfield Freeway, there are indications that something was used to start the fire, he said.

The **woman** lived alone next door and was not able to get out of her home by herself, he added.

"That's felony murder ... if it is arson and it extended to her house and **killed** her," Varnas said this morning. He said the punishment upon conviction can include up to life in prison.

"That's what we mean, when we say people think it's no big deal to set a vacant building on fire; this is an example of how it can get out of control," Varnas said.

Anyone with information about the fire is asked to call the Arson Investigation Unit at 313-596-2940.

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