

Fire that killed Ridgefield mother, son started by ashtray embers



By [Dan Ivers/NJ.com](#)

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RIDGEFIELD — The fire that killed a Ridgefield woman and her teenage son Saturday began after hot ashes were dumped into a household garbage pail, Bergen County Prosecutor John L. Molinelli said today.

Jeralyn Scibetta, 55, and her 14-year-old son Daniel both perished in their Linden Avenue home after the blaze broke out just after 5 a.m. Scibetta's husband, Ben, an older son and his girlfriend were able to escape the fire.

Molinelli said in an e-mail that the fire was an accident, started when "smoking materials", including burning embers, were dumped into a waste pail.

Molinelli did not share any further details on the fire. He also could not provide an update on the condition of Ben Scibetta, who was hospitalized with undisclosed injuries Saturday.

The Bergen County Prosecutor's Office Arson Squad had been investigating the incident, along with the Ridgefield Fire Department.

Jeralyn Scibetta was a nurse at Palisades Medical Center in North Bergen. Her son Daniel was an eighth-grader at Slocum Skews Middle School in Ridgefield, where classmates mourned his death on Monday.

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