

Woman falls to death down shaft below floorboards in South Carolina home

SALEM, S.C. – An 83-year-old woman who died when she fell through rotting floorboards in a century-old South Carolina house and down a well shaft the owner didn't know was there, authorities said.

It took rescuers nearly four hours Sunday to get the woman's body out of the nearly 50-foot-deep hole, Oconee County Coroner Karl Addis said in a statement.

The woman was helping her daughter pack up and move from the house in Salem, which according to property records was built in 1920, Addis said.

As she walked across the kitchen floor, part of it collapsed. Firefighters finally were able to find the woman and bring her back to the surface, said the coroner, who determined she died from injuries from the fall.

Addis declared the death an accident.