



News Release

Office of the Louisiana State Fire Marshal
8181 Independence Blvd.
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.lasfm.org

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CONTACT: MARSHAL BUTCH BROWNING
225-925-4911
1-800-256-5452
225-806-0803 (cell)

West Carroll Parish Man Arrested on New Simple Arson Statute

Baton Rouge LA, State Fire Marshal H. "Butch" Browning announced today that his office has arrested James Bailey dob. 3-19-68 and charged him with Simple Arson in connected with a fire in his home, he was renting. The fire was caused by the producing of meth and a subsequent explosion. This is the first arrest under the new law that makes it a crime when you cause a fire while in the commission of another felony.

The Concord Volunteer Fire Department was dispatched on October 9, 2010 to a reported fire and explosion at 407 Lee Road in Oak Grove Louisiana at 04:30hrs. Upon their arrival they found a large fire and Mr. Bailey on the scene with serious burns to his person, he was treated and transported to the West Carroll Medical Center. The fire destroyed the home and a large barn that contained two vehicles, one boat and a travel trailer. Damage was in excess of \$200,000.00. Investigators from the State Fire Marshal's Office were called to investigate this fire. Evidence collected indicated that Mr. Bailey was cooking meth and during the chemical process he caused an explosion. Subsequently, Mr. Bailey was arrested for simple arson; he remains in the custody of the West Carroll Parish Sheriff on \$5,000.00 bond.

Act 818 of the 2010 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature was authored by Representative Karen St. Germain of Pierre Part. It was signed into law by Governor Bobby Jindal and expands the definition of simple arson to include; The starting of a fire or causing an explosion while the offender is engaged in the perpetration or attempted perpetration of another felony offense even though the offender does not have the intent to start a fire or cause an explosion. This marks the first arrest from the new provisions of this law that is designed to prevent dangerous and deadly fires in the State.

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