



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
RELEASE NUMBER: 44576
DATE: December 23, 2010

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Arson Fire in Opelousas Claims One Life Three Arrested

Baton Rouge LA: State Fire Marshal H. "Butch" Browning released information today, in reference to a joint investigation his office has been conducting along with the Opelousas Police Department into a tragic fire that claimed the life of one man. The fire is suspected to be the act of arsonists. The investigation concluded today with the arrest of three suspects

On December 22, at 9:56 pm, the Opelousas Fire Department received a 911 call that reported a home on fire at 846 Burr Street. When the Firefighters arrived they confirmed that a single family residential home was burning, with flames that could be seen twenty-feet in the air from the home. First Responders quickly extinguished the fire and saved nearby buildings from receiving damage. The body of Johnny Little (dob. 9-25-1965) was found in the home and he was pronounced dead at the scene by the St. Landry Parish Coroner. An autopsy will be administered on Little's body. Firefighters confirmed that no working smoke alarms were found in the residence.

The State Fire Marshal's Office and the Opelousas Police Department have been conducting a joint criminal investigation into the cause of this fire and the resulting death of Little. Evidence that has been collected, including witness information has confirmed that the fire was intentionally set and also identified suspects. Three juveniles have been charged with Aggravated Arson and Second Degree Murder in connection with this arson. All three are males, two are sixteen years old and the other is fourteen years old. All three juveniles were book at the Opelousas Police Department and transported to the St. Martinville Juvenile Detention Center. Other arrests are pending.

State Fire Marshal Browning stated, "This is such a tragedy to see a man lose his life in this criminal action. Both agencies assigned all available resources to close this case and get the family the answers they deserve. I commend the professionalism and quick actions of Opelousas Police Chief Perry Gallow and his Officers. We will not tolerate the crime of arson and the use of fire to take a life."

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