



News Release

OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL CODE ENFORCEMENT AND BUILDING SAFETY

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Public Safety Services

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64-year-old Ruston Man Dies in House Fire

Ruston, LA - Early Tuesday, State Fire Marshal Investigators responded to a residential structure fire in the City of Ruston that left one man dead.

Just after midnight Monday, Ruston firefighters were dispatched to a single story residential structure fire at 300 Edgewood Street. When officials arrived they found the single-family, wood-frame, house fully involved in flames. A resident of the home, 45-year-old Phillip McClain told first responders that his brother was trapped within the burning structure.

After extinguishing the fire, Ruston firefighters located the body of 64-year-old Jettie McClain in the living-room of the severely damaged home. Ruston officials requested assistance from the State Fire Marshal's Office to determine the origin and cause of this deadly fire.

Jettie McClain's remains were recovered by investigators and released to the Lincoln Parish Coroner's Office for autopsy. Preliminary findings by investigators suggest that the fire originated in the kitchen, which is situated in the rear area of the three-bedroom residence.

Due to the severity of the damage caused by the fire, investigators have yet to determine the exact cause of this fire. The fire not only destroyed the home, but also destroyed a vehicle in the drive and caused superficial exterior damage to a neighboring residence.

Investigators learned that Jettie McClain lived at the residence with his younger brother Phillip McClain who was away from the home at the time the fire started. When Phillip McClain returned home from visiting friends just down the street, he discovered that the residence was on fire and called 911.

Phillip McClain and others on the scene attempted to rescue Jettie McClain from the burning structure, but their efforts fell short. Officials have determined that there were no properly functioning smoke alarms within the residence at the time of the fire.

State Fire Marshal Butch Browning urges all Louisiana citizens to frequently test their smoke alarms to ensure that they are functioning properly. Those citizens needing assistance in the purchase or installation of smoke alarms should visit the Louisiana State Fire Marshal website, lasfm.org, and click the main-page button "Operation Save a Life". There citizens in need of smoke alarms will find a "Smoke Detector Application and Installation Form" that may be completed and submitted online.

The cause and circumstances associated with this deadly fire remains under investigation.

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