



News Release

OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Electrical Fire Proves Fatal to Campti Couple

Campti, LA - A late evening fire Tuesday severely damaged a Natchitoches Parish home, leaving both of the occupants dead. The cause of the fire was determined to be an electrical short in an extension cord.

Just after 10:00 p.m. Tuesday evening, State Fire Marshal investigators were dispatched to the scene of a residential structure fire at 243 Pasture Road in Campti, that claimed the lives of John Henry Berguin, 70, and his wife, Florence Berguin, 68. The couple lived in the home along with a relative who was away at the time of the fire.

Fire crews were alerted to the fire at approximately 9:37 p.m. when the couple's neighbor went outdoors and spotted smoke and flames emitting from the residence. First to arrive on the scene was the couple's son, Campti Police Chief Greg Eldridge. Sadly, both had already succumb to the smoke and were later pronounced dead on the scene by the Natchitoches Parish Coroner's Office.

Initial findings of the investigation as to the cause and origin of the incident revealed that the fire began in a spare bedroom of the couple's manufactured home. There, an extension cord, which was connecting a power strip and a window-mounted air conditioner, had been placed between the frame of a bed and a wall. Investigators concluded that the condition of the cord at the point where the bed frame met the cord resulted in an electrical arc which ignited the bedding and mattress.

The home was equipped with a smoke alarm, but it remains unclear as to whether it was functional at the time of the fire.

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