



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Department of Public Safety & Corrections • Public Safety Services

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Iberia Parish Sheriff's Deputy Dies in Mobile Home Fire

VERMILION PARISH- State Fire Marshal deputies continue to investigate the circumstances surrounding a mobile home fire involving one death and one injury in Erath.

Around 1:15 p.m. on Tuesday, July 16, the Erath Volunteer Fire Department responded to a mobile home fire in the 2400 block of Conrad Road. Firefighters arrived to find one male in the front of the home suffering from smoke inhalation and burn injuries. The body of a second man was later located inside of the remains of the home in a hallway. The surviving occupant was taken to an area hospital for treatment.

SFM investigators learned the individuals, who were roommates, were asleep at the time the fire began. The surviving occupant reported being awakened by loud noises and discovered the trailer full of smoke. The man was able to finally escape through a bathroom window after other unsuccessful attempts to escape from different parts of the home. Once out of danger, the man made attempts to reach and alert his roommate to no avail.

While official identification and cause of death is still pending with the Vermilion Parish Coroner's Office, the deceased victim has been identified by the Iberia Parish Sheriff's Office as 35-year-old Paul Lancon, a lieutenant with the agency. The I.P.S.O. also confirmed the surviving occupant as another of their deputies.

At this time, while the official cause remains undetermined, investigators believe an electrical malfunction could be a contributing factor to this fire.

Also at this time, it is unable to be determined whether there were working smoke alarms in the home. The SFM would like to remind the public not only of the importance of having smoke alarms in a home, but to ensure they are always in working order by testing them monthly.

The SFM's Operation Save-A-Life program partners with local fire departments and districts to provide free smoke alarms to families that need them. Visit lasfm.org for more details about the program.

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