



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lake Charles Man Arrested in Deadly Trailer Fire Case

CALCASIEU PARISH- State Fire Marshal (SFM) deputies, in collaboration with Lake Charles Fire Department investigators and the Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office, have arrested a Lake Charles man in connection with a fire at his trailer that killed a mother and daughter and gravely injured an 11-year-old boy.

Casey Hatch, 36, was booked into the Calcasieu Parish Jail on two counts of 2nd Degree Murder. His bond is set at \$2 million.

The LCFD responded around 10:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 14, to a call for a trailer fire located in the 300 block of Dobbertine Drive. The four occupants in the home at the time of the fire were transported to a local hospital. They included Hatch, the homeowner, as well as a 39-year-old mother and her two children, a 12-year-old girl and an 11-year-old boy. The girl died hours later while her mother died late on the evening of the 16th. The boy remains in critical condition.

After an assessment of the scene, SFM investigators determined the fire began in a bedroom. Deputies continued working into a second full day to determine a cause which included conducting interviews with witnesses. In his interview with deputies, Hatch confessed to setting the fire in an attempt to commit suicide.

Upon his release from the hospital, Hatch was arrested on an unrelated, outstanding warrant by Calcasieu S.O. He was then rebooked on the charges in this case.

State Fire Marshal H. "Butch" Browning says this is a disturbing outcome to an already tragic situation.

"Arson is a serious crime," said Browning, "And in cases like this, where innocent people die as a result of intentionally set fires, our deputies work even more diligently to get answers for loved ones and justice for victims," said Browning, "We are grateful to LCFD and CPSO for sharing our dedication to that effort in this case."

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