



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Man Dies in Cecilia House Fire

ST. MARTIN PARISH- State Fire Marshal (SFM) deputies continue investigating the circumstances surrounding a house fire in Cecilia that claimed the life of a male occupant.

Just before 10:30 a.m. on October 29, the Cecilia Fire Department responded to a call for a house fire located in the 1100 block of Grand Anse Highway in Cecilia, which is in the Breaux Bridge area. The response included assistance from the St. Martin Parish Fire District, Arnaudville Fire Department, Henderson Fire Department and Breaux Bridge Fire Department.

Firefighters later discovered the body of a 20-year-old male inside. Official identification and cause of death are pending an autopsy by the St. Martin Parish Coroner's Office.

Following an assessment of the scene, deputies determined the fire originated in the home's kitchen.

While collecting witness statements, deputies learned the victim often went fishing in the late evenings, returning in the early mornings and cooked before going to sleep.

While the exact cause of the fire remains undetermined at this time, investigators are not ruling out unattended cooking as a possible contributing factor. Deputies have confirmed this fire is not considered suspicious.

State Fire Marshal H. "Butch" Browning wants to remind families about simple cooking safety tips including never leaving the kitchen when cooking is underway and never cooking while tired, distracted or under the influence.

The SFM would also like to reiterate the importance of working smoke alarms in giving residents critical seconds to escape a fire unharmed. If you cannot access smoke alarms, visit lasfm.org to learn more about Operation Save-A-Life which is a partnership between the SFM and local fire departments to install free smoke alarms in homes across the state.

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