



News Release

Office of the Louisiana State Fire Marshal
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Vermillion Parish Woman Living in a Shed Dies in Fire

Abbeville, LA- State Fire Marshal H. "Butch" Browning announces that a second unrelated fatal fire this morning in the state has claimed the life of a woman.

The Abbeville Fire Department was dispatched shortly after 11:53 am this morning to 10634 Highway 167 as a result of a call from a Vermillion Parish Sheriff's Deputy on patrol that had discovered a building on fire. When firefighters arrived they found a 12 foot by 16 foot storage shed building burning. Upon extinguishment of the fire they discovered the body of Marilyn Durke (dob. 12-11-1956). She was pronounced dead at the scene.

State Fire Marshal Deputies were called to investigate this tragic fire. The shed was being used as a living unit and set up as a bedroom for Mrs. Durke. The building was not operating in accordance with any residential building codes and electrical services appeared to be deficient. In addition, no smoke alarms were in use. The cause of the fire remains under investigation. The Vermillion Parish Sheriff's Office is also assisting in the investigation.

The State Fire Marshal's Office also is investigating an unrelated fatal fire that occurred this morning in Husser, Louisiana that claimed the life on a man. This fire is suspected to have been caused by a space heater.

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