



News Release

Office of the Louisiana State Fire Marshal
8181 Independence Blvd.
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.lasfm.org

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CONTACT: MARSHAL BUTCH BROWNING
225-925-4911
1-800-256-5452
225-806-0803 (cell)

Jefferson Parish Man Dies Today from Injuries When His Home Caught Fire

Harvey, LA- A Jefferson Parish man has died today after being hospitalized for injuries he sustained when his home caught fire on December 15, 2011.

The Marrero Harvey Volunteer Fire Department responded shortly before 8:00 pm to 700 Bellanger Street to a report that a residence was on fire. Firefighters arrived minutes later to discover a kitchen fire. They quickly entered the home and rescued Thomas Meador (dob. 12-24-1928). He was transported to West Jefferson Medical Center and later transferred to the Baton Rouge General Burn Unit; he had been listed in critical condition. The home did not have working smoke alarms. Fire Chief Don Robertson stated, "Our personnel did a remarkable job of locating Mr. Meador quickly and rendered emergency care to him".

The State Fire Marshal's Office worked jointly with the Jefferson Parish Fire Prevention Bureau to investigate this tragic fire and the resulting death that has occurred today. Investigators believe that the fire originated in the microwave oven where items being cooked ignited and caused a fire that spread to other combustibles in the kitchen.

State Fire Marshal H. "Butch" Browning states, "We were very disappointed to hear the news today that this man has died, the Marrero Harvey Firefighters worked very hard to save him. Fires are very dangerous and take precious life within moments. I can't plead enough; every home in Louisiana must have working smoke alarms if we are to stop these deaths! If you have elderly family members or neighbors act today and install smoke alarms in their home, their lives depend on it".

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