



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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Mansura Fire Claims Life of Woman, 49

Four other occupants manage to escape flames

Mansura, LA – Investigators from the Louisiana State Fire Marshal's Office are continuing to piece together the cause of a fire that claimed the life of a 49-year old Mansura woman.

Mansura Volunteer Fire Department firefighters responded at 8:52 a.m., Tuesday, to 2549 Hwy 1187 regarding a residential structure fire involving a manufactured home. While firefighters were able to extinguish the fire in short manner, the home suffered severe damage.

The home was occupied by five (5) people at the time of the fire, including a 92-year-old grandmother, her 74-year-old daughter, two (2) granddaughters, ages 49 and 48, respectively, and a 2-year-old infant boy.

Investigators were informed by resident Ella Mae Louis, 74, that after receiving the infant, whom she watches periodically, from his mother at approximately 8:00 a.m., she returned to her bedroom which she shares with her 48-year-old daughter, Dephanie Louis, only to be awakened a short time later by popping sounds emanating from the living room. When she entered the living room, she observed that a couch near the entrance to the home was on fire.

After an unsuccessful attempt at waking her 49-year-old daughter, Maryanne Louis, who slept in a bedroom adjacent to the living room, Ella Mae Louis returned to her bedroom and that of her mother, Dorothy Hollis, 92, to wake them. The actions of Ella Mae Louis allowed the remaining occupants to vacate the home.

The grandmother, Hollis, was later treated and released from an area hospital after suffering smoke inhalation.

Firefighters located the lifeless body of Maryanne Louis clothed and lying on her back upon her bed. After the body was processed by investigators, it was released to the Avoyelles Parish Coroner's Office where an autopsy is expected to be conducted later.

Investigators believe that the location of Maryanne Louis' body, which suffered minor thermal injuries, 'and the fact that she was clothed, indicates that she had awakened and prepared to vacate the home before succumbing to the deadly smoke.

While the investigation is active and the cause of the fire unknown, investigators were able to establish that the fire began near or on the couch. There were no indications that electrical wiring played a part in the blaze.

In addition, the home was not equipped with working smoke alarms.

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LOUISIANA OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL

News Release – Addendum (Mansura Fire; 3/3/15)



Photograph provided by the Louisiana State Fire Marshal's Office



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