



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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Lake Providence Man Dies in House Fire

Smoking in bed likely cause of fire

Lake Providence, LA – Unsafe smoking habits likely played a part in the death of a Lake Providence man who died Monday from injuries he sustained in a fire in his home.

State Fire Marshal investigators were dispatched to 32 Artaud Street in Lake Providence shortly before noon Monday in response to a residential structure fire.

Kenneth Jefferson, 54, died while en route to the hospital from thermal injuries he received as a result of his attempt to put a fire out which had started in his bedroom that he shared with his girlfriend, Anita Jones.

Jones told investigators that she was awakened from sleep by Jefferson who told her to call for help, at which time she went to a neighbor's home for assistance. Jones further stated that she observed Jefferson attempting to suppress the flames in the bedroom on the side of the bed where Jefferson had been sleeping beside her.

Investigators were also informed by neighbors that Jefferson was later observed outside of the wood-framed home, where he appeared to have been injured.

Medical responders later described Jefferson as being unresponsive upon their arrival and that he died while being transported to an area hospital.

Jones also stated to investigators that she and Jefferson were habitual smokers and that they regularly smoked while in bed.

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While the status of the investigation into this deadly fire is active, investigators determined that the origin of the fire, which destroyed the home, was in the master bedroom.

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News Release – Addendum (Lake Providence Fatal Fire; 9/7/15)



Photograph provided by the Louisiana State Fire Marshal's Office