



News Release

OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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Public Safety Services

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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One Dead in Franklinton Fire

Franklinton, LA – Unsafe smoking practices may have caused a fire that severely damaged a residence in Franklinton Tuesday morning, where the discovery of a woman’s body by firefighters prompted officials to request assistance from the State Fire Marshal’s Office.

Firefighters from Franklinton Fire Department responded to the residential structure fire at 1401 Green Street, shortly after 7:00 a.m. Tuesday morning. Upon entering the wood-framed structure, which had no smoke alarms at the time of the fire, firefighters found the lifeless body of a woman in the master bathroom.

After being examined by State Fire Marshal investigators, the body was released to the Washington Parish Coroner’s Office for autopsy. Preliminary indications are that the victim died as a result of smoke inhalation.

While a positive identification of the victim has not been made, investigators believe the body to be that of 47 year-old Livia Rodrigues, whose family members told investigators that Rodrigues was the sole occupant of the home. Investigators also learned that Rodrigues’ general health was poor and her mobility had been greatly diminished after she suffered a stroke in April 2015.

As to the origin of the fire, investigators have determined that the fire began in the bedroom where a significant amount of used smoking materials and residue were located next to a bed.

The investigation into this deadly fire remains active.

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