



News Release

OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Department of Public Safety & Corrections
Public Safety Services

8181 Independence Blvd.
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.lasfm.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Deputy Chief Brant Thompson

Release#:

Office: 225-925-3661

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Cell: 225-247-6251

Eunice Fire Claims Life of 12-Year-Old

Eunice, LA – State Fire Marshal investigators continue to examine the circumstances in a deadly residential structure fire that claimed the life of a young girl early Monday morning.

Investigators responded to the scene after Eunice firefighters were dispatched to 1541 Williams Avenue at approximately 5:30 a.m., when a neighbor reported flames emanating from the living room, in the central part of the home. While conducting suppression efforts, firefighters located the lifeless body of Cailey Duplechain, 12, in a bedroom in the northwest area of the residence.

Cailey's stepfather and her 4-month-old brother, who were also in the home at the time of the fire, were able to escape, but not without injury. Both were transported to a local hospital where a full recovery is expected.

After being examined by investigators, Cailey's body was released to the St. Landry Parish Coroner for autopsy. Preliminary indications are that she died from smoke inhalation.

Investigators have determined that the fire began in the living room of the brick home, which was completely destroyed by the fire.

While no official determination as to the cause of the fire has been established, investigators discovered the remnants of an electric space heater within the area of origin—one of two used in the home at the time of the fire. The second heater, which was located in the kitchen area, has been eliminated as the source of the fire.

Investigators also found that there were no working smoke alarms present in the home.

The investigation into this tragic fire remains active.

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News Release – Addendum (Eunice Fatal Fire; 1/11/16)



Photograph courtesy of the Louisiana Office of State Fire Marshal.



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