



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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Zachary Fire Claims Life of Elderly Man

Zachary, LA – State Fire Marshal investigators are continuing to examine the circumstances that led to a fire where the body of a 64-year-old Zachary man was found late Tuesday night.

Zachary firefighters were dispatched to a structure fire located at 3641 Cage Street in Zachary, shortly before midnight Tuesday. Upon arrival, firefighters found a small, detached, wood-frame storage shed in the rear of the property fully engulfed in flames.

During suppression efforts, the body of George Matthews, Jr. was found within the structure. The body, which was badly burned, was examined by investigators and later released to the East Baton Rouge Parish coroner for autopsy. Initial indications are that Matthews died of smoke inhalation.

Matthews was reportedly living in the shed behind the residence where his brother lived. Although the structure had been converted into a living space, it had no working utilities at the time of the fire.

While there has been no official determination made as to the cause of the fire, investigators have established that the fire originated on a bed in the small shed.

The investigation into this deadly fire continues.

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News Release – Addendum (Zachary Fatal Fire; 3/29/16)



Photograph provided by the Louisiana State Fire Marshal's Office