



# NEWS RELEASE

## OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Department of Public Safety & Corrections • Public Safety Services

8181 Independence Blvd. • Baton Rouge, LA 70806

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:** Chief Deputy Brant Thompson

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**PHONE:** 225-247-6251

## Coushatta House Fire Claims Woman's Life

**Coushatta, LA** – State Fire Marshal investigators continue to examine the circumstances of an early morning fire that claimed the life of a Coushatta woman.

Fire crews responded to 1908 Abney Street in Coushatta after receiving a report of a house fire just before 2:00 a.m. Saturday. Upon their arrival, they observed the home engulfed in flames.

After the fire was extinguished and while combing through the burned-out house, firefighters located the body of 58-year-old Luella Taylor in a portion of the home that had collapsed. The discovery of Taylor's body prompted local authorities to seek assistance from the State Fire Marshal's Office.

After being examined by investigators, Taylor's body was released to the Red River Parish Coroner for autopsy.

Neighbors reported to investigators that Taylor was observed warming herself near a trash fire outside of the structure the day prior to the fire. Later that night, she was observed inside the home, which had no electrical service, using candles for illumination and possible heating.

While no official cause of the fire has been determined, investigators established that the fire originated in the kitchen area of the wood-framed home, which had no working smoke alarms at the time of the fire.

The investigation continues.

**END - END - END**

Louisiana Office of State Fire Marshal

**NEWS RELEASE – ADDENDUM**

**Coushatta Fatal Fire – October 22, 2016**



Photo courtesy of the Louisiana Office of State Fire Marshal