



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Elderly Man Dies in Westlake Fire

Westlake, LA – State Fire Marshal investigators are working to determine the cause of a deadly fire in Westlake Tuesday morning that claimed the life of a 77-year-old man.

Investigators were summoned to 823 Baker Road in Westlake after emergency crews responded to a report of a residential structure fire just before 11:00 a.m. During suppression efforts, firefighters located the lifeless body of Harold Dailey Cornett in the living area of the metal-fabricated structure.

After being examined by investigators, Cornett's body was released to the Calcasieu Parish coroner for autopsy. Initial findings by investigators indicate that Cornett died as a result of smoke inhalation.

While no official cause of the fire has been determined, investigators have established that the fire originated in a bedroom of the home, which suffered significant damage including the collapse of structural components.

There were no working smoke alarms in use in the home at the time of the fire.

The investigation into this fire continues.

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