



# 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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## Man Dies in Ponchatoula Fire

**Ponchatoula, LA** – A fire that caused the death of a 66-year-old Ponchatoula man was likely the result of the man using his kitchen gas stove as a heating source, according to State Fire Marshal investigators Thursday.

Investigators were summoned after the brother of Will Foster, Jr. found his body in the kitchen of his wood-framed home, located at 160 West Street at approximately 9:00 a.m. Thursday morning. The victim's brother told investigators that he had gone to the home after the victim, who had recently suffered injuries from a fall, failed to answer phone calls.

After being examined by investigators, the victim's body was released to the Tangipahoa Parish Coroner for an autopsy procedure scheduled for early Friday.

Investigators believe that Foster, who habitually utilized the gas stove as a heating source, accidentally ignited gas vapors that had accumulated in the area of the stove top after several burners were turned on. When the vapors ignited, the victim's clothing caught fire, which caused significant burn injuries.

The home suffered no notable damage as a result of the fire.

The investigation remains active.

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