



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Zachary Fire Claims Life of Elderly Woman

Zachary, LA – State Fire Marshal investigators are currently on scene combing through the charred remnants of a house where the body of an 80-year-old Zachary woman was recovered.

Zachary fire officials contacted the State Fire Marshal's Office after responding to a residential structure fire shortly after 6:00 a.m. Tuesday. While conducting suppression efforts, firefighters were advised by family members and neighbors that the homeowner, Ellen Butler, was unaccounted for.

Soon after entering the structure, firefighters located Butler's body in the northern end of the structure.

After being examined by investigators, the victim's body was released to the East Baton Rouge Parish Coroner for autopsy. Preliminary findings indicate that Butler died as a result of smoke inhalation.

Due to the severity of the damage to the home, with numerous structural support components having collapsed, investigators have yet to determine the cause of this deadly fire. It is unclear as to whether the home was equipped with working smoke alarms.

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