



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Department of Public Safety & Corrections • Public Safety Services

8181 Independence Blvd. • Baton Rouge, LA 70806

www.lasfm.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Chief Deputy Brant Thompson

DATE: April 25, 2017

PHONE: 225-247-6251

One Dead in Breaux Bridge Structure Fire

Breaux Bridge, LA - State Fire Marshal investigators continue to examine the circumstances surrounding a structure fire that left a Breaux Bridge man dead Saturday afternoon.

Investigators were dispatched to 1715 Mills Highway in Breaux Bridge after fire crews responded to a report of a structure fire shortly after 4:00 p.m. last Saturday. After entering the structure, described as a large, wood-framed metal workshop, firefighters found the body of 57-year-old Richard Ducote inside.

After being examined by investigators, the victim's body was released to the St. Martin Parish Coroner's Office for an autopsy which was performed Tuesday morning. Preliminary results of that procedure indicate that Ducote died from smoke inhalation.

Investigators learned that Ducote had apparently been trapped inside the structure by the fire, which had blocked the only avenue of escape. An attempt by the victim's son to enter the shop was unsuccessful due to flames and heavy smoke. The structure, which suffered complete collapse, was destroyed by the fire.

While an official cause of the fire has yet to be determined, investigators established that the fire originated in an area of the structure near the location where Ducote's body was discovered.

END - END - END