



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LONGVILLE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER ARRESTED FOR SIMPLE ARSON

BEAUREGARD PARISH, LA (June 5, 2018)- The Louisiana Office of State Fire Marshal has arrested a volunteer fireman with the Longville Fire Department for allegedly setting an air mattress on fire, which subsequently caught his home on fire.

Chance Felice (DOB 6/20/94) was booked into the Beauregard Parish Jail Monday, June 4, for one count of Simple Arson.

Just after Midnight on Monday, June 4, the OSFM was contacted to assist in determining the origin and cause of a fire at a home in the 500 block of Jordan Deville Road in Longville.

The Fire Chief told investigators he was suspicious about Felice's involvement with the fire due to comments made by Felice two hours prior to the 911 call. The chief also mentioned Felice had been suspended from the department twice in the past year. Additionally, Felice said he had been unable to respond to two calls for service earlier in the evening due to lack of transportation.

After examination of the damage, deputies determined the origin of the fire to be the floor area of the northeast corner of the home's garage.

In an interview with detectives, Felice claimed to have knocked over a torch and lit some wires on fire. After further interrogation, Felice confessed that he lit an air mattress under his garage wanting to start a small fire. He said the air mattress fire quickly got out of control and he tried putting it out with a garden hose, which was unsuccessful. Then he called 911.

Felice was placed under arrest following treatment for smoke inhalation.

"This is, undoubtedly, a disappointing incident to the Longville community and its fire service," said State Fire Marshal H. "Butch" Browning, "But this instance should not tarnish the dedication that hundreds, if not thousands, of volunteer and career firefighters demonstrate in their communities, across our state, on a daily basis."

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