



# 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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### **Four Arrested in Scheme to Damage Boat**

**LAFOURCHE PARISH, LA-** The Louisiana Office of State Fire Marshal has arrested four men for conspiring to damage a boat belonging to a business competitor, which was ultimately accomplished by setting it on fire in November of last year.

Adam Louis Theriot III (DOB 7/21/83), from Lafourche Parish, was arrested in the Monroe area on July 10 on one count of Simple Arson. He was later transferred to the Lafourche Parish Jail.

Gabriel Noel Cheramie (DOB 8/24/71), of Golden Meadow, was booked into the Lafourche Parish Jail on July 13 for one count each of Principal to Simple Arson and Criminal Conspiracy.

Anthony Joseph Bouffanie Jr. (DOB 1/6/75), of Galliano, was booked into the Lafourche Parish Jail on July 17 for one count each of Principal to Simple Arson and Conspiracy to Commit Simple Arson.

Max Scott Cheramie (DOB 4/28/88), of Cutoff, turned himself in to authorities on July 23. He was booked into the Lafourche Parish Jail on one count each of Principal to Simple Arson and Criminal Conspiracy.

In the early morning hours of November 27, 2017, Lafourche Parish Fire District #3 requested the assistance of the LAOSFM to determine the origin and cause of a boat fire located in the 100 block of West 186 Street in Galliano.

The vessel had been sitting on a trailer in the owner's yard, without batteries, where it was being serviced in preparation for the launch of a new charter fishing business. It was discovered with heavy fire damage to the back of the boat where a gas can with a rag for a wick was also located burned. The fire was deemed incendiary.

The victim told investigators he was suspicious that his former employer, Max Cheramie, had something to do with the fire as the victim had recently left Cheramie's business to start his own.

Over the past eight months, investigators' efforts led them to identify Gabriel Cheramie, Anthony Bouffanie and Adam Theriot as persons of interest in the case.

In an interview with Bouffanie earlier this month, he admitted his involvement and detailed what happened.

Bouffanie told investigators that Gabriel Cheramie approached him about a request from Max Cheramie to have the victim's boat disabled with a special wire, provided by Max Cheramie, to prevent the vessel from operating. Bouffanie said he would take on the task for a fee. Bouffanie then got Adam Theriot involved in the plan, believing they would both get paid to disable the boat.

The night of the arson, Bouffanie told investigators he and Theriot, both on drugs, drove to the victim's home in a borrowed truck. Bouffanie stayed in the truck while Theriot approached the boat wearing a disguise and gloves. Bouffanie says Theriot returned to the truck saying he had been unable to cut wires to the vessel, so he placed a gas can he found on the boat, dipped a rag inside to create a wick, lit it on fire and fled. Bouffanie says the pair drove across the canal to watch the fire grow, took pictures of it and sent it to Gabriel Cheramie to prove the job was complete. However, Bouffanie says neither were ever paid.

Following Theriot and Gabriel Cheramie's arrests, both admitted their involvement and corroborated Bouffanie's detail of events.

Max Cheramie's attorney declined a request by investigators to interview Cheramie following his arrest.

The State Fire Marshal's Office would like to remind the public about our Arson Hotline where suspicious fire and/or explosion-related activity can be reported anonymously. Tips can be called in to 1-866-946-1097 or submitted online at <https://sfm.dps.louisiana.gov/>

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