



# 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](http://www.lasfm.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Ventress Man Dies In House Fire, Son Critically Injured**

**POINTE COUPEE PARISH-** State Fire Marshal (SFM) deputies continue to investigate the circumstances surrounding a house fire involving one death and one injury in Ventress.

Around 2:30 a.m. on Friday, August 9, a house fire was reported in the 9800 block of Island Road. Firefighters with Pointe Coupee Fire District #3 located the body of one male in a bedroom. A second male occupant was located with severe burns at a neighbor's home and was taken to a local burn unit for treatment.

While official identification and cause of death are still pending with the Pointe Coupee Parish Coroner's Office, the deceased male is believed to be the 75-year-old homeowner. The surviving occupant is the homeowner's 49-year-old son.

Along with assistance from the Pointe Coupee Parish Sheriff's Office, SFM investigators learned the fire was discovered by the surviving occupant, who attempted to remove his father from the home unsuccessfully, sustaining burns to 50% of his body in the process.

At this time, while the official cause remains undetermined, investigators are considering improper smoking practices and/or candle use as possible contributing factors to this fire.

Also at this time, the presence of working smoke alarms cannot be confirmed. The SFM would like to remind the public not only of the importance of having smoke alarms in a home, but to ensure they are always in working order by testing them monthly.

The SFM's Operation Save-A-Life program partners with local fire departments and districts to provide free smoke alarms to families that need them. Visit [lasfm.org](http://lasfm.org) for more details about the program.

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