



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: Ashley Rodrigue
Public Affairs Director

DATE: 9/13/19

PHONE: 225-620-5115
ashley.rodrigue@la.gov

Multiple Arrests Made in New Llano House Fire *One Suspect Still At Large*

VERNON PARISH- Four people have been arrested in connection with a house fire in New Llano late last month, while an arrest warrant has been issued for a fifth suspect.

Daniel Kay, 55, was booked into the Vernon Parish Jail for one count each of Arson with Intent to Defraud, Theft and Criminal Conspiracy.

Mark Kidder, 36, was booked into the Vernon Parish Jail for one count each of Simple Arson, Manufacture and Possession of a Delayed Incendiary Device and Possession of A Firearm by a Convicted Felon.

Lacie Prater, 34, was booked into the Vernon Parish Jail for one count each of Simple Arson, Criminal Conspiracy and Manufacture and Possession of a Delayed Incendiary Device.

Alisha Rivers, 40, was booked into the Vernon Parish Jail for one count each of Simple Arson and Manufacture and Possession of a Delayed Incendiary Device.

An arrest warrant is outstanding for Jason Runge, 41, for one count each of Arson with Intent to Defraud, Criminal Conspiracy and Manufacture and Possession of a Delayed Incendiary Device.

In the morning hours of August 20, the New Llano Fire Department contacted the State Fire Marshal's Office (SFM) to assist in determining the origin and cause of a house fire located in the 100 block of Franklin Street.

After an assessment of the scene, several areas of origin were located along with a number of objects left with the intention of catching fire over time. The home also appeared to be in disarray. SFM investigators deemed the fire to have been intentionally set.

SFM deputies learned the home was owned by several siblings, but Kay was the current resident. During the investigation, deputies discovered that an illegal electrical meter was installed on the house. They

also obtained evidence placing Kidder and Rivers at the scene around the time of the fire and warrants were issued for their arrest.

Once in custody, Kidder admitted to investigators that he was involved in a plot with Kay, Runge, Prater and Rivers to burn the home and make it look like a robbery for insurance money. Kidder, a convicted felon, was also found to be in possession of a weapon upon his arrest.

Once Rivers was taken into custody, she admitted to taking items from the home.

The remaining suspects were taken into custody in the weeks that followed. Runge, however, is still at large.

If anyone has information about Jason Runge's whereabouts, or about this case, they're encouraged to submit that information, anonymously if preferred, through the State Fire Marshal's Arson Tip Line at 1-800-256-5452 or through our online tip form located on lasfm.org.

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