



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Arrest Made in Connection With Houma Fire, Death

TERREBONNE PARISH- State Fire Marshal deputies, in collaboration with the Houma Police Department, have arrested a man in connection with a vehicle fire that spread to multiple occupied structures and resulted in the death of a 39-year-old resident last month.

David Mason, 37, was booked into the Terrebonne Parish Jail on Sunday, April 7 on one count of 2nd Degree Murder, two counts of Aggravated Arson, 16 counts of Attempted 2nd Degree Murder and one count of Criminal Conspiracy.

Just after 2:30 a.m. on Sunday, March 31, the Houma Fire Department responded to a fire call in the 200 block of Mahler Street. Upon arrival, firefighters discovered a single-family residential structure, a two-story garage apartment structure and a vehicle on fire.

Two adult occupants in the single-family structure were alerted to the fire by an alarm and were able to escape unharmed. A child in the downstairs unit of the garage apartment alerted the adult occupant to the fire and both escaped unharmed. The occupant of the upstairs unit of the garage apartment, 39-year-old Wayne Winter, Jr., was discovered deceased in the vicinity of the burning vehicle.

Investigators determined Mason was involved in setting Winter's car on fire, which grew and spread to the two nearest, surrounding structures and threatened several other homes where families were asleep inside.

This investigation is on-going and additional arrests are expected.

The SFM would like to thank the Houma Police and Fire Departments, Terrebonne Parish Sheriff's Office, the Louisiana Department of Justice, as well as the community, for their assistance and cooperation in this case.

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