NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Investigation Continues into New Iberia Fire and Explosion

IBERIA PARISH- State Fire Marshal (SFM) deputies continue investigating the circumstances surrounding a fire and subsequent explosion at a business office in New Iberia that injured three first responders.

Just before 10 a.m. on July 29, the New Iberia Fire Department responded to a report of a fire at a manufactured home being used as a business office located in the 800 block of Hopkins Street. While suppression efforts were underway, an explosion occurred, injuring three firefighters. All three were hospitalized and updates on the conditions of the injured firefighters are subject to the New Iberia Fire Department's release.

Following an assessment of the scene, deputies have determined the fire originated on the back side of the manufactured home. The exact cause and source of ignition remain undetermined, however, deputies can confirm the presence of excess natural gas was a contributing factor.

Deputies continue investigating the circumstances surrounding the subsequent explosion as they work to determine an origin and cause for that incident.

The SFM would like to thank the New Iberia Fire Department for their assistance with this case especially with their members being personally affected by it.

"We are keeping these firefighters, their families, and the New Iberia Fire Department in our prayers," said State Fire Marshal Chief H. "Butch" Browning, "Our folks are working diligently with all involved agencies to determine as much information as possible about what happened so we can try to prevent a terrible situation like this from happening again."

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