



News Release

OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Department of Public Safety and Corrections
Public Safety Services

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Three Escape; Two Die in St. Landry Parish House Fire

Lawtell, LA – State Fire Marshal investigators were called upon to investigate a deadly blaze that claimed the lives of two Lawtell residents earlier today. St. Landry District 3 firefighters were dispatched to a residential fire at 407 Hwy. 358 at approximately 4:21am, after a 911 call came from a neighboring property.

First arriving firefighters found the wood frame home venting heavy smoke and flames. After the fire was brought under control, firefighters located the bodies of 72 year old Willis Amos Semien and his wife, 66 year old Lou Anna Semien, among the charred remains of the structure.

The two fire victims occupied the home along with their 19 year old daughter, a 14 year old foster child, and their 11 year old granddaughter. The children were able to escape the blaze and notify neighbors who made the 911 call alerting authorities.

Investigators determined that the fire originated in the area of the living room, but have not yet identified the cause of the fire. State Fire Marshal investigators, along with local authorities, continue to investigate the cause of this deadly fire.

The bodies of Willis and Lou Anna Semien were processed on the scene by investigators and released to the St. Landry Parish Coroner's Office for autopsy.

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