



News Release

February 1, 2009

FATALITY FIRE

Washington County Sheriff Tim Helder announced today a fatality fire occurred in eastern Washington County.

The Washington County Sheriff's Office, along with the Washington County Fire Marshal's Office and Fayetteville Fire Department are investigating a fatality fire at 4637 Mission Boulevard (Highway 45 E.). The initial call reporting the fire was received by the Sheriff's Office at 5:57 a.m. this morning. Goshen Fire Department, Round Mountain Fire Department and Fayetteville Fire Department, as well as Washington County Sheriff's deputies and the Washington County Fire Marshal responded to the scene.

The fire occurred at a barn on the property where five teenage boys were having a sleepover. One of the boys realized the barn was on fire and attempted to wake the others. Three of the boys were able to escape, but two others were unable to get out and died in the fire. The property belongs to Dr. Bryan Abernathy.

The two boys believed to have died in the fire are Forrest Daniel **TURNER**, W/M, (15) of Fayetteville, and Beau Allen **SPENCER**, W/M, (16) of Fayetteville. Both boys were students at Fayetteville High School.

Detectives are still at the scene investigating the cause of the fire. The victims' bodies will be sent to the Arkansas State Crime Lab to determine cause of death and make positive identification.

For further information please contact Kelly Cantrell at (479) 530-5729 or kcantrell@co.washington.ar.us

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