



# St. George Fire Protection District

14141 Airline Hwy, Suite 1-H

Baton Rouge, LA 70817

Eldon Ledoux, Public Information Officer

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Phone: (225) 454-6573    Cell: (225) 279-1493    FAX: (225) 615-8019    Email: [ERLedoux@StGeorgeFire.com](mailto:ERLedoux@StGeorgeFire.com)

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## MEDIA RELEASE

Date: 7/12/11

St. George firefighters were dispatched to two house fires within five minutes of each other this afternoon as a thunderstorm passed through the area. Residents were not home at the time of either fire, and there were no injuries.

The first was reported at 3:12PM at 17121 East Old Perkins Rd. The house was in a rural area and about 200 yards off the road. The first unit was on the scene at 3:21 PM. When they arrived the house was approximately 60% involved with the entire roof ablaze. The fire was declared under control 30 minutes later, but the structure was a total loss.

Residents of the area reported heavy lightning in the area, but there were no witnesses to the fire's origin and the degree of loss made it difficult to pinpoint a precise cause. Investigators concluded the cause to have been a lightning strike to the roof of the house. The finding is based on the weather conditions at the time and the description of the fire's progression by a member of a nearby construction crew.

The second fire was called in at 3:17PM, five minutes after the first fire was reported. The location of this fire was 17643 Nine Oaks Ave, in the Nine Oaks Subdivision off Old Jefferson Hwy, near Hoo Shoo Too. The first engine on scene arrived at 3:21PM and the fire was under control at 3:39PM. This fire was caused by a lightning strike, witnessed by neighbors, to the home's roof. The fire damage was contained to the attic area and siding near where the lightning struck. The home sustained approximately \$35,000 in damage.