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***** NEWS RELEASE *****

DATE: January 31, 2025

FROM: LaSalle County Coroner's Office

On the afternoon of January 28th 2025, the LaSalle County Coroner's Office was called to 2885 US Route 52, near Sheridan, IL. for a male decedent who had been recovered from a fire incident inside a building structure. The male decedent has been identified as Donald B. Harper Jr. age 78.

A forensic investigative autopsy was conducted on Thursday, January 30, 2025 with preliminary results indicating he died of carbon monoxide intoxication due to smoke & soot inhalation from the fire.

This incident is under further investigation by the LaSalle County Coroner's Office, LaSalle County Sheriff Office & the Illinois State Fire Marshall.

Richard Ploch,

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