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**\*\*\* NEWS RELEASE \*\*\***

**DATE:** July 22, 2025

**FROM:** LaSalle County Coroner's Office

On the early evening of July 21<sup>th</sup> 2025, the LaSalle County Coroner's Office was called to 2783 East 508<sup>th</sup> road near LaSalle, IL. for a male decedent who had been recovered from a fire incident inside the home. The male decedent has been identified as Ronald H. Burkart, age 71, of LaSalle, IL.

A forensic investigative autopsy was conducted on Tuesday, July 22, 2025 with preliminary results indicating he died of carbon monoxide intoxication due to smoke & soot inhalation from the fire. Further forensic testing is pending the final cause of death.

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

Richard Ploch,

LaSalle County Coroner