



Louisville Fire Protection District

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"Our Family Serving Your Family"

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Investigators say fatal fire started in kitchen

LOUISVILLE, CO, Feb. 9, 2008...Investigators believe the fire that killed a California man early Friday started in the kitchen, possibly at a gas range.

The cause of the blaze will be ruled accidental, according to a preliminary report by George Coddling, Louisville fire investigator. No evidence of arson was found at the scene of the fire, which took firefighters 45 minutes to get under control.

Police patrolling a neighborhood north of the house at 786 Club Circle noticed smoke and fire coming from the house just before 2 a.m. and alerted the fire department. When the first due engine arrived, the home was engulfed in flames. When firefighters were able to knock down the fire enough to enter the house, they found the body of David Ryan on the floor behind the front door.

Determining the cause of Ryan's death is the responsibility of the Boulder County Coroner. Firefighters want to remind citizens that heavy smoke in a building is extremely dangerous to life and typically contains high concentrations of carbon monoxide that can quickly incapacitate a person. People staying in hotels and unfamiliar homes should familiarize themselves with exits to increase their chances of surviving a fire.

The investigation was led by LFD fire officials with the assistance of members of the Multi-Agency Fire Investigation Team (MAFIT), composed of fire and police investigators from several agencies in Boulder County. Departments represented in the investigation include Rocky Mountain Fire Authority, Boulder Rural Fire Protection District, Longmont Fire Department, Mountain View Fire Protection District and the Colorado Bureau of Investigation.

The Louisville Fire Department, which has 60 volunteers and nine career firefighters, provides fire suppression and prevention, rescue and emergency medical services to 25,000 people in Louisville and unincorporated Boulder County.

