

## **July 30, 2012 - Aggravated Arson Arrest Made for Two Alarm Apartment Fire**

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Shreveport Fire Department Investigators have arrested Dexter Sims for Aggravated Arson for allegedly setting fire to the Villa Marquis Apartments at 3701 Valleyview Drive. SFD responded there early this morning for a Two Alarm Apartment fire. Sims resides at 8901 Brookwood Drive and is 43 years old. No motive yet has been identified for the alleged arson and Shreveport Fire Investigators are continuing their investigation of the fire.

The early morning fire was dispatched at 4:23 AM with fire crews arriving at 4:27 AM to find a 16 unit apartment building on fire with occupants attempting to escape from 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> story windows. SFD began immediately rescuing victims with ladders from the second story and treating injured victims when they arrived on scene. There were five injured victims from the fire who were all transported by SFD ambulance to LSUHSC Emergency Room. The fire was brought under control around 5:00 AM. The fire destroyed eight of the apartments in the building and damaged four others.

Louisiana Revised Statute 14:51 says a person convicted of Aggravated Arson shall be imprisoned at hard labor for not less than six nor more than twenty years, and shall be fined not more than twenty-five thousand dollars. Two years of such imprisonment at hard labor shall be without benefit of parole, probation, or suspension of sentence.