



**Richard Ploch**  
**LaSalle County Coroner**  
**LA SALLE COUNTY FORENSIC CENTER**

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

**DATE:** January 31, 2025

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

On the afternoon of January 28<sup>th</sup> 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Ploch".

LaSalle County Coroner