



JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

McLean County Coroner's Office
Bloomington Fire Department & Bloomington Police Department

For Immediate Release: March 2, 2026

Fatal House Fire Under Investigation on East Market Street

Bloomington, IL - On Sunday, March 1, 2026, at 5:27 p.m., the Bloomington Fire Department and Bloomington Police Department responded to a structure fire in the 700 block of East Market Street.

Upon arrival, firefighters observed smoke coming from a two-story, single-family residence. Initial crews began extinguishment efforts while simultaneously initiating a search for occupants.

During the search, firefighters located one person inside the residence. He was pronounced deceased at the scene by the McLean County Coroner's Office.

McLean County Coroner Dr. Kathleen Yoder is releasing the following information:

Pronounced deceased at 6:28 p.m., on March 1, 2026, was Benjamin L. Duzen, age 40, of Bloomington, Illinois. Preliminary autopsy opinion indicates that Mr. Duzen died from carbon monoxide intoxication caused by the inhalation of smoke and soot from a housefire. Toxicology testing is pending.

The residence sustained extensive smoke and water damage, as well as significant fire damage to portions of the structure.

The circumstances surrounding this incident remain under investigation by the Bloomington Police Department, the Bloomington Fire Department, and the McLean County Coroner's Office. Anyone with information is asked to contact Detective Brock Merritt at Bmerritt@cityblm.org or 309-434-2359.

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Crime Tips

If you wish to submit a crime tip and remain anonymous, please contact the Crime & Intelligence Analysis Unit (CIAU) at 309-434-2963 or email CIAU@cityblm.org. You can also text the number 847411 by texting the word "BPDTIPS", then a space, followed by your tip information.

The tip line is not monitored 24/7. The CIAU office is staffed from 8am-8pm, weekdays. If no one is available to answer your call, please leave the information on the voicemail or send it by e-mail.

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