

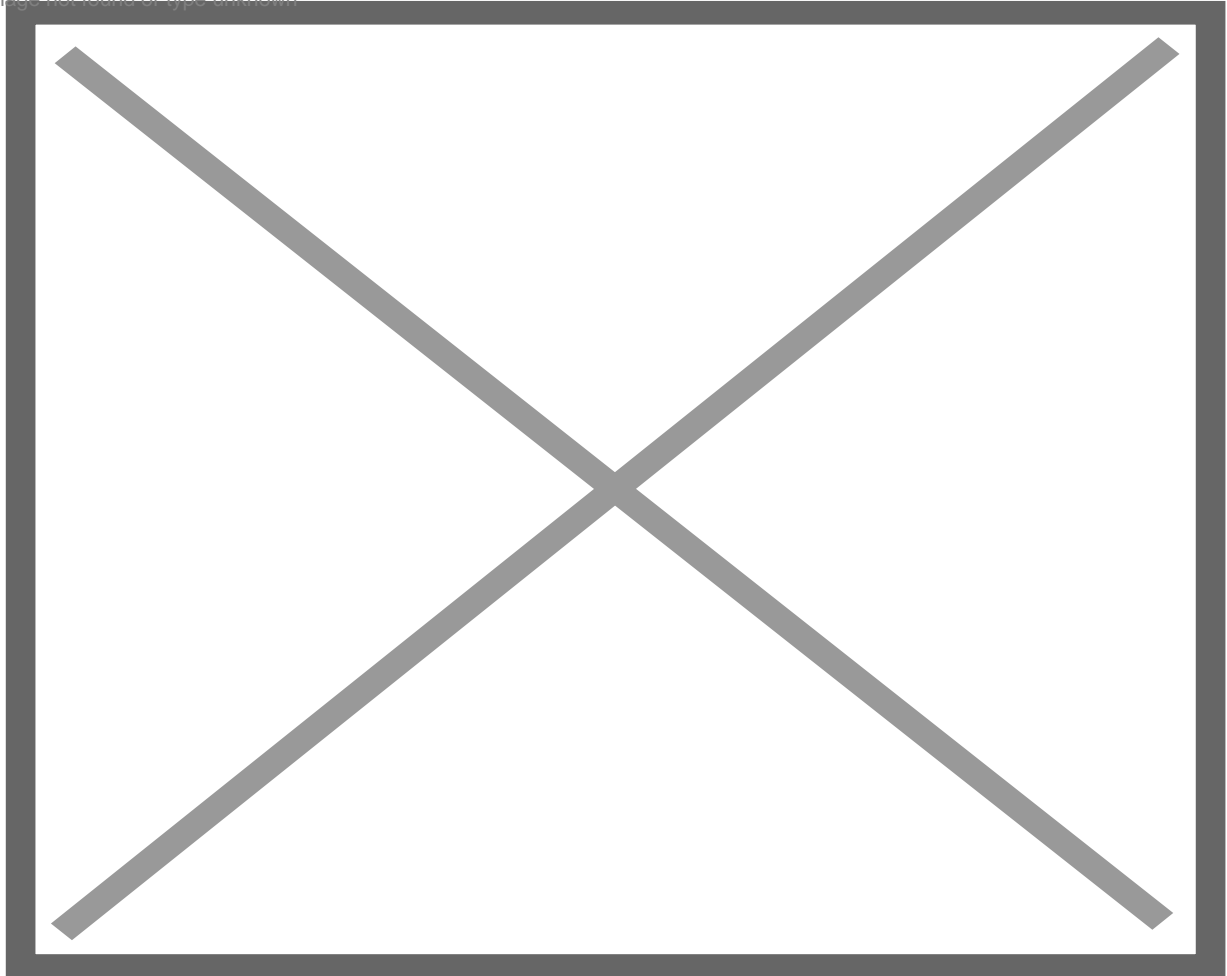
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Two Die as Fire Swept Through House in St. Lucia

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CASTRIES. St. Lucia, CMC – Two elderly people died after fire swept through a house in Trou Rouge, east of here on Saturday, fire and emergency officials have confirmed.

They said that the bodies of the unidentified couple were found in the small house after the fire had been extinguished.

Fire Services officials said that the fire had engulfed the small wooden building by the time two fire trucks had arrived and had been able to prevent the blaze spreading to nearby buildings.

One eyewitness said that a loud explosion was heard shortly before the blaze and thought it may have been a fireworks as part of the celebrations marking the island's 41 st anniversary of political independence from Britain.

Prime Minister Allen Chastanet and Opposition Leader, Phillip J. Pierre, who is the parliamentary representative for Castries East, were on the scene of the fire.

They have both extended condolences to the families of the couple.

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