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# Investigators study clues from autopsy on cut, charred body

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**GULFPORT** — Investigators began adding up clues Friday, attempting to identify the charred body found Thursday near Saucier.

The man is believed to have been killed sometime Wednesday night and left about 100 yards off U.S. 49 north of Gulfport.

Steve Delahousey, Harrison County medical examiner, said that while the man was bludgeoned and burned, death resulted from several deep slash-type cuts across the throat.

"It was a brutal slaying," Delahousey said after an autopsy was conducted Friday morning.

Investigators believe the victim was hit on the head several times, possibly with a mallet-type hammer found near the body Thursday. The blows likely rendered the victim unconscious, he said.

"The blunt trauma to the head disabled him, and then the lacerations to the throat were the fatal injuries," the medical examiner said. The body was then covered with a flammable liquid, possibly gasoline, and set afire, he said.

The body was discovered about 9:30 a.m. by William A. Saucier in the front yard of his grandmother's home. Authorities have no suspects in the case.

The man was about 25 years old, with light brown hair some 1 to 3 inches long. He wore women's Chic denim jeans.

"This is going to be an individual that apparently led a rather delicate lifestyle. There are no scars, no callouses, no indication he's a laborer. His fingernails, toenails, all were well-manicured," Delahousey said. "It still remains a puzzle as to why he wasn't wearing any shoes and why he was wearing Chic jeans."