



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FAMILY OF COMPANIES**

## **First Fortified...*for safer living*<sup>®</sup> Home In Louisiana Complete**

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**[Arnaudville, LA]** – Louisiana System Built Homes marked the completion of the first Fortified...*for safer living*<sup>®</sup> home built in the state of Louisiana with a ribbon-cutting ceremony today.

The home, at the Ponderosa Estates in Arnaudville, meets the “Fortified” requirements set by the Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS), a nonprofit research organization supported by the insurance industry to reduce property losses.

In addition to earning the Fortified...*for safer living*<sup>®</sup> designation, all homes built by LASBH at its St. Martinville factory, are energy efficient, affordable, and have a higher standard of quality construction.

“Fortified” criteria raises a new home's overall resistance to natural disasters based on the hazards that the home will face where it is built. In Louisiana, “Fortified” homes:

- are designed to withstand wind speeds 20 MPH above those set by the American Society of Civil Engineers;
- have higher design pressure rated windows and doors, and in the southern portion of the state require impact-resistant opening (typically window and door) protection; and
- have roofing materials that provide a resistance to water penetration, high winds and hail and provisions that take flood and wildfire into consideration.

For system built homes, the “Fortified” designation is granted once the home is permanently sited and an inspection shows elevation and connection details meet IBHS requirements.

“In an effort to rebuild the coast, people need affordable, energy efficient, quality homes built to a higher standard of construction than previously offered in factory- or site-built homes,” said LASBH Founder Aubrey Shoemake. “We are proud that we can build homes in a timely manner while achieving the ‘Fortified’ standard, which is important to us as well as our customers.”

To promote safer construction in Louisiana, American National Property And Casualty Company (ANPAC) offers a 25 percent discount off the hurricane portion of a homeowner's policy for homes built to the Fortified...*for safer living*<sup>®</sup> standard. Homes must also meet other ANPAC underwriting requirements. ANPAC is an IBHS member company.

"ANPAC adopted the Fortified...*for safer living*<sup>®</sup> model after the Gulf Coast was devastated in 2005," said Agent Doug Jones. "ANPAC believes that homes within 100 miles of the coast should be built to a higher standard. The discount we offer can reduce the insurance cost by hundreds of dollars per year by protecting against major risks Louisiana residents face."

For more information on Louisiana System Built Homes visit <http://www.lasbhomes.com/> or contact Katrina Collette, (337) 342-2701.