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Firefighter sets home afire, kills dog, self

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LAKE JACKSON - A chemical company firefighter shot his dog, placed the animal in bed, set fire to his house and shot himself in the head, authorities said.

Brazoria County Sheriff's Department investigators found the charred remains of Rogelio Huizar, 33, in the living room of his gutted home in a subdivision near here early Thanksgiving morning.

Investigator Steve Ricks said Huizar's dog was found in a bed in the master bedroom with its head resting on a pillow and body covered with a blanket. It was shot once in the head.

Authorities said Huizar called a friend shortly before taking his own life, asked him to report the fire and hung up. He then doused the living room floor with gasoline.

He started the fire, lay down on a foldable aluminum ladder extended in a rectangular position and shot himself in the right ear with a .38-caliber pistol.

The body has been taken to the Harris County Medical Examiner's office to compare it with Huizar's dental records, said Ricks.

Ricks said foul play has been ruled out.

Huizar was single, was an only child and lived alone in the house, said Ricks.

The \$80,000 house was a total loss. Firefighters battled the blaze for an hour and were able to extinguish the flames in time to keep the bedroom where the dog was found from being completely consumed.