



# News Release

## OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Department of Public Safety & Corrections  
Public Safety Services

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Investigation Continues In Fatal Chatham Fire

*Autopsy to determine identity and cause of death*

**Chatham, LA** – State Fire Marshal investigators are continuing to look into the circumstances surrounding a fire that destroyed an RV early Wednesday morning in Chatham where a man's body was recovered from the rubble.

Chatham firefighters were dispatched to the fire at an RV/mobile home park located at 6418 Hwy 34, just before 2:00 a.m. Wednesday after being contacted by Jackson Parish Sheriff's deputies who found the small RV ablaze. The deputies had responded to the park after residents reported hearing sounds resembling gunfire.

While extinguishing the fire, firefighters located the badly burned body of a man, believed to be James Kelly, 80, on the floor near the trailer's bathroom. Fire officials then contacted the State Fire Marshal's Office for assistance.

The victim's body was released to the Jackson Parish Coroner for autopsy, which will determine the victim's identity and the cause of death.

During the course of their examination of the fire scene, investigators learned from neighbors that Kelly, the only known occupant of the RV, used several space heaters for warmth.

While investigators have not made a determination as to the cause of the fire, they were able to establish that the origin of the fire was the interior of the RV.

This investigation remains active.

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**LOUISIANA OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL**

**News Release – Addendum (Chatham Fatal Fire; 11/25/15)**



Photograph courtesy of Louisiana Office of State Fire Marshal.