# 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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## Man Dies in Oakdale House Fire

**ALLEN PARISH-** State Fire Marshal (SFM) deputies continue investigating the circumstances surrounding a house fire in Oakdale that claimed the life of a male resident.

Around 2:30 p.m. on February 11, the Oakdale Fire Department responded to a call for a house fire located in the 600 block of N. 17th Street. Firefighters later discovered the body of a man in a bedroom.

While official identification and cause of death are pending an autopsy, the victim is believed to be a 56-year-old male resident of the home.

After an assessment of the scene, deputies determined the fire originated in the home's living room. While the exact cause remains undetermined, deputies cannot rule out the possibility of an unattended space heater placed too closely to combustible objects as a contributing factor.

"This is now the 12th life lost to fire in Louisiana in 2021, and this time, as frigid temperatures make their way across the state, it seems this fire, sadly, may be related to an attempt to stay warm," said State Fire Marshal H. "Butch" Browning, "We have got to do better for ourselves and our families and be careful when engaging in behaviors that can be fire hazards disguised as everyday household activities."

When heating your homes over the next several days, please remember to plug space heaters directly into wall outlets as opposed to extension cords or power strips and keep the devices 3-5 feet away from combustible objects like blankets. And never leave a space heater, or open flame like a candle, unattended. In addition, do not use stoves or ovens as heat sources and do not leave fireplaces and wood-burning ovens unattended or overloaded with too much wood.

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