



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Department of Public Safety & Corrections • Public Safety Services
8181 Independence Blvd. • Baton Rouge, LA 70806

www.lasfm.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Ashley Rodrigue
Public Affairs Director

DATE: 12/27/23

PHONE: 225-620-5115
osfm.publicaffairs@la.gov

Man Dies in West Monroe Mobile Home Fire

OUACHITA PARISH- State Fire Marshal (SFM) deputies continue to investigate a mobile home fire in West Monroe that claimed the life of a male resident.

Just before 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, December 26, the Ouachita Parish Fire Department responded to a call for a mobile home fire located in the 700 block of Larry Henry Road in the West Monroe area.

Firefighters learned that an elderly husband and wife were asleep inside at the time of the fire. The woman reported waking up to a popping sound, opening the bedroom door to smoke, waking her husband and running outside to get a hose. She says when she returned, she found her 75-year-old husband, who had mobility challenges, on the floor. Despite her efforts, she was unable to pull him from the home before being forced out by smoke.

Following an assessment of the scene and conducting witness statements, deputies have determined the fire began in a bathroom area. While the investigation into the exact cause of the fire continues, deputies have been unable to rule out the possibility of an electrical malfunction as a potential contributing factor. The victim reported experiencing frequent electrical issues in the home and deputies found evidence of improper wiring as well as excessive extension cord use all around the home.

When it comes to electrical safety, which is often associated with home heating, it is advised to avoid overloading power strips and long-term, unintended uses of extension cords which include connecting several extension cords to create non-traditional power sources. This can cause overheating and become a fire hazard. It is also advised to always contact a licensed electrician to inspect and repair any electrical issues you experience in your home.

Lastly, deputies were unable to locate working smoke alarms in the home. The SFM wants to stress to all Louisiana residents that smoke alarms have proven to be the difference between life and death in a fire emergency. If you need assistance obtaining smoke alarms for your home, Operation Save-A-Life can help. To learn more about Operation Save-A-Life, or to register for a free smoke alarm, visit our website at lasfm.org or contact your local fire department to request a free smoke alarm installation.

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