



# 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](http://www.lasfm.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**DATE:** 4/30/19

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### Two Children Seriously Hurt in Covington House Fire

**ST. TAMMANY PARISH-** The State Fire Marshal's Office is continuing its investigation into the origin and cause of a house fire in rural Covington that left two children in critical condition and their grandfather hospitalized.

St. Tammany Fire District #6 responded to the call in the 21000 block of Pat O'Brien Road just after 2 a.m. Upon arrival, firefighters located the 74-year-old homeowner and his 11-year-old granddaughter outside of the burning home. A 12-year-old boy, the homeowner's grandson and sibling to the female victim, was rescued from the home by first responders. All three victims were full-time residents of the home.

Both children are in critical condition at a New Orleans hospital due to smoke inhalation. Additionally, the boy suffered burns to his face, hands and arms. The grandfather was taken to a Northshore hospital for observation.

At this time, while investigators are still working to determine the fire's origin and cause, they are looking into potential electrical factors.

The grandfather reported to investigators that he was awakened by popping noises and discovered the fire. He was able to escape from a window on the back side of the house, then broke a window on the front side of the home in order to pull the female child to safety. The boy was discovered by first responders near the carport door in the home's kitchen. Three cats and two dogs died in the fire.

Smoke alarms were present in the home and were heard functioning. The SFM would like to remind all families that smoke alarms can be the difference between making it out of a fire alive. Our agency partners with local fire departments and districts through Operation Save-A-Life to install free smoke alarms for families that are unable to do so themselves. Visit [lasfm.org](http://lasfm.org) for more information on the program.

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