NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Department of Public Safety & Corrections • Public Safety Services

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Man Dies in Gretna Apartment Fire

JEFFERSON PARISH- State Fire Marshal (SFM) deputies, in partnership with the Jefferson Parish Fire Department, are investigating an apartment fire in Gretna that involved one death.

Just after 6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 7, the David Crockett Fire Company responded to a call for a four-plex fire on Aston Cox Drive in Gretna. The fire was confined to one unit, though minor damage was located in the unit above. The other two units were unaffected.

The body of what is believed to be a 55-year-old resident of the home, who was disabled, was located in a rear bedroom of the affected unit. Official identification and cause of death are pending an autopsy by the Jefferson Parish Coroner's Office.

After an assessment of the scene, deputies determined the fire originated in the kitchen and the cause was unattended cooking.

Investigators learned the wheelchair-bound victim lived with his father in the apartment unit. According to witness statements, the father left the home to go to the store while cooking dinner, and turned the burner on low before leaving instead of turning the stove off completely.

At this time, deputies have been unable to locate working smoke alarms in the unit.

State Fire Marshal H. "Butch" Browning wants to remind families about some common safe cooking practices to avoid tragedies like this, especially at this time during the state's "Stay At Home" order:

- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling or broiling food
- Set a timer and check the status of food frequently when baking, boiling or roasting
- If you need to leave the house, turn all heat sources off
- Keep combustibles like towels and paper products away from stovetops
- Unplug cooking devices when they're not in use

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