



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Elderly Woman Dies in Cartwright Mobile Home Fire

JACKSON PARISH- State Fire Marshal (SFM) deputies continue investigating the circumstances surrounding a mobile home fire in the Cartwright area of Choudrant that claimed the life of the elderly female homeowner.

Jackson Parish Ward 2 Fire Protection District responded to a residential fire in the 2200 block of Robinson Chapel Road around 10:15 a.m. on January 14. Firefighters learned that the homeowner's son, who lives across the street, spotted the fire from his home and attempted to rescue his mother, but the front door was padlocked from the inside. After forcing entry through the front door, firefighters located a woman's body in the living room.

While official identification and cause of death are pending an autopsy, the victim is believed to be the 85-year-old disabled homeowner.

After an assessment of the scene, which included navigating through excessive contents inside of the home, deputies determined the fire began in the living room near where the victim was found. The official cause remains undetermined with the inability to rule out a potential unknown electrical malfunction in the ceiling area due to improper wiring.

The State Fire Marshal's Office would like to remind Louisiana residents how important it is to keep exits clear for quick access in the event of an emergency like fire. This is important not only for everyone in your home to get out, but for first responders to get in to conduct rescues and to preserve as much of your property as possible, without being trapped or harmed in the process.

In addition, if you have any concerns concerning electrical activity occurring in your home, the SFM encourages you to reach out to a licensed professional to have your wiring examined. It is not recommended to use extension cords as long-term power sources, nor is it recommended to connect multiple extension cords to one another, or to power strips, to create power sources where outlets do not exist.

Lastly, deputies were unable to locate working smoke alarms in this home. The SFM stresses the importance of having working smoke alarms, and if you need assistance obtaining smoke alarms for your home, Operations Save-A-Life can help. Visit our website at lasfm.org for more details on the program.