



# NEWS RELEASE

## OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:** Ashley Rodrigue  
Public Affairs Director

**DATE:** 10/11/21

**PHONE:** 225-620-5115  
[ashley.rodrigue@la.gov](mailto:ashley.rodrigue@la.gov)

### Child Dies in Geismar Fire

**ASCENSION PARISH-** State Fire Marshal (SFM) deputies continue investigating the circumstances surrounding an afternoon fire that claimed the life of a child in Geismar.

Around 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 10, the Geismar Volunteer Fire Department and Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office responded to a fire call at a home located in the 37000 block of Cornerview Road. First responders arrived to find a flatbed, cargo trailer, and its contents, on fire in the front yard of the property. The body of a child was found under the contents.

While official identification and cause of death are pending with the Ascension Parish Coroner's Office, the victim is believed to be a 6-year-old male resident of the home next door to where the fire occurred.

Following an assessment of the scene, deputies determined the victim and two siblings, ages 9 and 4, had been playing on the trailer in front of a relative's home, which was next door to their home. Adults were present inside both homes at the time of the fire. Deputies learned the children were playing inside of a hollowed-out, pre-fabricated concrete staircase that had been covered in an effort to create a fort environment. Witness statements indicate the children had possession of a lighter and used it to light a small pile of combustible objects as though it was a campfire. While the other two children were able to escape unharmed, the 6-year-old was trapped and died.

"There is no other way to describe this other than purely tragic," said State Fire Marshal H. "Butch" Browning, "While we are keeping this child and his family in our prayers, we're also pleading with other families to learn from this devastating loss."

The SFM recommends to making sure all smoking-related materials in and around your home, including lighters, are kept out of the reach of children. In addition, the SFM asks parents and guardians to remind children and teenagers that fire is not a toy and that playing with fire can have dangerous consequences for them as well as the people and property around them.

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