



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: 10/24/18

PHONE: 225-620-5115
ashley.rodrigue@la.gov

Ten-Year-Old Killed, 13-Year-Old Hospitalized in Monroe Fire

OUACHITA PARISH- The Louisiana Office of State Fire Marshal is investigating the circumstances surrounding another tragic home fire this week that has claimed the life of a child.

The Ouachita Parish Fire Department responded to the fire around 12:45 a.m. on Wednesday, October 24 in the 100 block of Cleveland Circle.

While the investigation into the origin and cause of the fire is on-going, deputies have learned there were four occupants in the home at the time of the fire. It is believed that three of the four were asleep in their bedrooms while a 10-year-old boy was awake playing video games in the living room.

One of the adults discovered the fire and attempted to alert the rest of the household. Two adults and the a 13-year-old boy were able to escape through a window in the master bedroom. The teen was treated at an area hospital for smoke inhalation and released.

The body of the 10-year-old was discovered behind the couch in the living room. A pet cat also died in the fire. Identification of the child is pending with the Ouachita Parish Coroner's Office.

Unfortunately, the LAOSFM knows it is common for children to react to fire by hiding instead of trying to escape. This is why our message of having a fire escape plan for every home, and putting it into practice often, is critical.

Earlier this month, during Fire Prevention Week, fire agencies across the country stressed to, "Look. Listen. Learn. Be Aware. Fire Can Happen Anywhere." The "learn" element of that safety message was to encourage families to learn two ways out of every room in a home. As October is Fire Prevention Month, we are hoping this tragedy will help communities continue to spread these important safety tips to prevent and escape fires.

We are now at a count of five fatal fires in our state in a little more than a week's time. The LAOSFM strongly urges families to recognize the life-saving difference that smoke alarms can make in a fire emergency. Our agency partners with local fire departments and districts to provide FREE smoke alarm

installations at any time of the year through our Operation Save-A-Life program. Visit lasfm.org for more information on the program.

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