



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

DATE: 8/20/19

CONTACT: Ashley Rodrigue
Public Affairs Director

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

Crowley Man Dies In House Fire

ACADIA PARISH- State Fire Marshal (SFM) deputies continue to investigate the circumstances surrounding a house fire involving one death in Crowley.

Just before 8:45 p.m. on Monday, August 19, the Crowley Fire Department responded to a house fire in the 600 block of West 11th Street. The body of a man was located in one of the home's bathrooms. A female occupant was able to escape the fire unharmed.

While official identification and cause of death are still pending with the Acadia Parish Coroner's Office, the deceased male is believed to be the 70-year-old tenant of the home.

SFM investigators learned from the surviving occupant, who rented the home with the deceased, that the pair were in one of the home's bedrooms when a noise led them to the living room where they witnessed sparks coming from a window A/C unit. The woman said the man was making an effort to extinguish the fire when she exited the structure. Despite her urging the man to exit with her, he never emerged from the house.

While assessing the scene, investigators located evidence of the A/C unit having been plugged in to a power strip that was connected to several extension cords running throughout the home. At this time, the cause remains undetermined with the inability to rule out electrical malfunction as a contributing factor.

The Fire Marshal's Office would like to remind the public about the importance of electrical fire safety with the following tips:

- Plug only one heat-producing appliance (such as a coffee maker, space heater, or A/C unit) directly into a wall outlet at a time.
- Extension cords should only be used temporarily. Have an electrician install additional wall outlets where you need them.
- Never use an extension cord with a heat-producing appliance.
- Don't overload extension cords or wall outlets.
- Check your electrical cords. If they are cracked or damaged, replace them. Don't try to repair them.

- Electrical work should only be done by a qualified electrician.

