



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Woman Dies in Baker House Fire

EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH- State Fire Marshal (SFM) deputies, in partnership with the Baker Fire Department, are investigating a house fire involving one death.

Just after 6 p.m. on Wednesday, April 15, the Baker Fire Department responded to a call for a house fire in the 3200 block of Monroe Street. Firefighters later discovered the body of the 82-year-old female homeowner, identified by Baker fire officials as Dorothy Gray.

Gray was found in the living room area near a sewing machine surrounded by clutter including a thread of extension cords and power strips connected to each other. No working smoke alarms have been located in the home.

After an assessment of the scene, deputies determined the fire originated in the living room area. At this time, the exact cause of the fire remains undetermined with the inability to rule out electrical malfunction and/or improper smoke practices.

State Fire Marshal Chief H. "Butch" Browning wants to remind residents about the importance of having working smoke alarms to give residents those critical first seconds to react to a fire before smoke prevents them from escaping.

In addition, Chief Browning advises residents to be mindful of the safe methods to discard smoking materials and to make those methods a habit. Lastly, be aware of electrical hazards you can create by plugging too many extension cords and power strips together or too large of an appliance into an extension cord and/or power strip. Large appliances should always be plugged directly into a wall outlet.

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