



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Opelousas Woman Dies in Mobile Home Fire

ST. LANDRY PARISH- State Fire Marshal (SFM) deputies continue investigating the circumstances surrounding a mobile home fire in Opelousas that claimed the life of an elderly female.

Just before 4:15 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 30, St. Landry Fire District #3 responded to a call at a mobile home located in the 200 block of Bernard Road in Opelousas. First responders arrived to find the body of a woman in the home's living room.

While official identification and cause of death are pending with the St. Landry Parish Coroner's Office, the victim is believed to be the 70-year-old homeowner.

Following an assessment of the scene, deputies determined the fire began in the back side of the mobile home near the living room area. While an exact cause remains undetermined at this time, deputies cannot yet rule out an electrical malfunction of several appliances located in the area of origin or the possibility of improperly discarded smoking materials.

The SFM always recommends smoking outdoors and ensuring all smoking materials are properly extinguished in the appropriate manner. Also, refrain from smoking when tired or under the influence of alcohol or medications that make you drowsy. In addition, all spark-producing objects, like lighters, should be kept out of the reach of children.

When it comes to electrical safety, avoid connecting extension cords and power strips to create power sources where a wall outlet does not exist and don't overload those cords and strips if using them for temporary purposes. Plug all appliances directly into wall outlets to prevent overheating of wires. And if your home is experiencing electrical issues, have a licensed electrician evaluate the situation and make any needed repairs.

At this time, deputies have been unable to locate or determine whether the home had any working smoke alarms. Smoke alarms are a proven tool to alert residents to a fire danger in order to escape safely.

The SFM's Operation Save-A-Life partners with local fire departments to install smoke alarms for free for families that need them most. To learn more about Operation Save-A-Life, or to register for a smoke alarm installation, visit lasfm.org.