



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: Ken Pastorick
Public Affairs Director

DATE: 2/24/25

PHONE: 225-406-8153
osfm.publicaffairs@la.gov

Two Die in State's Latest Fatal Fires

BATON ROUGE- State Fire Marshal deputies are investigating two North Louisiana fires over the past week which killed two men.

Around 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 19, 2025, Ouachita Parish Firefighters responded to a report of a storage container fire in the 500 block of Ernest White Road in West Monroe. As firefighters worked to put the fire out, they learned the container was being used by a 40-year-old man for temporary shelter. First responders attempted life-saving efforts on the sole occupant. However, he did not survive. Fire investigators are still trying to determine the cause of the fire. The storage container did not have a smoke alarm.

The second fire claimed the life of a disabled 65-year-old man. The Red River Fire Department responded 9 a.m. Saturday to the 900 block of East Carroll St. in Coushatta. State Fire Marshal investigators say the fire began at the 220 volt dryer plug and was a result of an electrical malfunction. The home had a smoke alarm, but it's unclear if it was working at the time of the fire.

"Smoke alarms are proven to save lives and are the best protection no matter what type of structure you stay in," said Chief Bryan Adams, "That's why it's so devastating when someone dies in a residential fire without a working smoke alarm. We need every family in this state to invest in their safety by getting working smoke alarms for their homes today."

If you need assistance obtaining smoke alarms for your home, Operation Save-A-Life can help. To learn more about Operation Save-A-Life, or to register for a free smoke alarm installation, visit our website at lasfm.org or contact your local fire department to request a free smoke alarm installation.

-END-END-END-END-