



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: 12/26/24

CONTACT: Public Affairs Division

PHONE: 225-620-5115
osfm.publicaffairs@la.gov

Child Dies in Rayville House Fire

RICHLAND PARISH- State Fire Marshal Chief Bryan J. Adams is reminding Louisiana families about the importance of home heating safety following a house fire in Rayville that claimed the life of a child.

Just before 9 a.m. on Christmas morning, the Rayville Fire Department responded to a call for a house fire located in the 300 block of Cotton Street. When firefighters arrived, two people were outside of the home reporting a third occupant, a child, somewhere still inside. Tragically, despite firefighters' efforts, the victim did not survive.

While the official identification and cause of death are pending with the Coroner's Office, the victim is believed to be an 11-year-old boy who lived at the home.

State Fire Marshal (SFM) deputies have determined the fire started in the bedroom where the victim was found. The cause of this fire remains under investigation at this time, however, some of the possible causes being considered are an electrical malfunction within the home's wiring and/or a space heater potentially placed too closely to materials that can easily catch fire.

The SFM wants to remind all Louisianans about safe home heating tips. If using a space heater for warmth, ensure it is plugged directly into a wall outlet as opposed to an extension cord or power strip and make sure it's placed 3-5 feet away from objects that can easily catch fire like blankets and furniture. Do not use ovens or stoves to heat your home and make sure any open flames, like fireplaces and candles, are never left unattended.

In addition, deputies have confirmed that this home did not have working smoke alarms. Unfortunately, even though most of the occupants were awake at the time of the fire, a working smoke alarm could have warned them even sooner of the fire emergency in the home.

Chief Adams wants to remind Louisiana residents that smoke alarms are a critical, life-saving device for every family to have. If you need assistance obtaining smoke alarms for your home, Operation Save-A-Life can help especially following the large influx of alarms to the program as part of a historic donation from Lowe's and First Alert.

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-