



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SFM Updates Deadly Winnsboro House Fire Investigation

BATON ROUGE- State Fire Marshal (SFM) deputies continue trying to get answers in the recent tragic fatal fire that claimed four lives in Winnsboro.

Just after 4 a.m., the Winnsboro Fire Department responded to the 200 block of Willow Street for a house fire where four victims were tragically discovered. Franklin Parish Coroner's Office spokesman Shane Scott identified the victims as Louise Johnson, 81, Lacraidrian Jones, 26, Aubree Thomas, 9, and Honor Jones, 2. The coroner's cases for each victim remains open pending autopsy results, he said.

At this time, deputies are still trying to determine where this fire began inside of the home as well as any and all potential contributing factors to the cause.

In the meantime, as the state has remained in a very cold state, State Fire Marshal Chief Bryan J Adams continues to urge Louisianans to be aware of and proactive about addressing home fire hazards by following home heating safety tips:

- If using a space heater, make sure it's placed 3-5 feet away from objects that can catch fire easily like blankets and furniture.
- Ensure space heaters are plugged directly into a wall outlet as opposed to an extension cord or power strip.
- Space heaters should also always be turned off when you're going to sleep or leaving the room and/or home.
- Do not use ovens or stoves to heat your home
- Make sure any open flames, like fireplaces and candles, are never left unattended.
- Have a working smoke alarm!

Deputies have confirmed that this home had smoke alarms, but they have not yet been able to determine whether they were working and/or whether they were able to be activated by the fire. 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 last month.

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.