



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Department of Public Safety & Corrections • Public Safety Services

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: 2/19/25

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Monroe-Area Fatal Fire Cause Still Under Investigation

OUACHITA PARISH (February 19, 2025) - The State Fire Marshal's Office (SFM) continues its investigation into a house fire that claimed the life of a Ouachita Parish man.

Just after noon on Sunday, February 16, the Ouachita Parish Fire Department responded to a report of a house fire in the 500 block of Marion Street in unincorporated Monroe.

Unfortunately, the 68-year-old male homeowner did not survive. Official identification is pending with the parish Coroner's Office.

At this time, deputies have determined the fire began in the occupant's bedroom. However, the cause is still under investigation.

State Fire Marshal Chief Bryan J Adams wants to remind all Louisianans about several of our safety tips.

Deputies found an old smoke alarm inside the home, but it was not working at the time of the fire. Smoke alarms save lives and should be replaced every 10 years. Also, it is essential to test smoke alarms monthly and change their batteries every six months. It is recommended replacing the batteries when you change your clocks for daylight savings.

Chief Adams wants to remind Louisiana residents that smoke alarms are a critical, life-saving device for every family to have, no matter what type of structure you stay in. 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.

And due to extreme cold temperatures Louisiana is experiencing, we want to remind you that if you are 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.

On Behalf of State Fire Marshal Chief Bryan J. Adams
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