



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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State Fire Marshal Investigating Fatal RV Fire in St. John the Baptist Parish

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH (January 27, 2026) – The Louisiana Office of State Fire Marshal (SFM) is investigating a fatal fire involving a recreational vehicle in St. John the Baptist Parish.

The St. John the Baptist Parish Fire Department responded shortly after 10 a.m. on Monday, January 26, 2026, to a reported fire in the 100 block of 18th Street in Reserve. One occupant, a 67-year-old man, was pronounced deceased at the scene.

The SFM investigation remains ongoing. At this time, investigators have not ruled out the possibility of lithium-ion battery-related factors contributing to the fire.

Anything with a lithium-ion battery—phones, laptops, e-bikes, power tools—can become a fire hazard if it's not charged safely. Always use the charger that came with the device or one approved by the manufacturer. If the cord only works when you bend it just right, it's time to replace it.

Investigators also determined the recreational vehicle was not equipped with a working smoke alarm. "Smoke alarms provide early warning and save lives," said DPS Principal Assistant and State Fire Marshal Chief Bryan J. Adams. "It's not the flames that kill—it's the smoke."

Residents are urged to regularly test their smoke alarms and ensure they are properly installed. Those in need of a free smoke alarm and installation can receive one through the SFM's Operation Save-A-Life program. Contact your local fire department to request a smoke alarm or contact the State Fire Marshal's Office by visiting lasfm.org.

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