



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Woman Dies in Franklinton House Fire

WASHINGTON PARISH- State Fire Marshal Chief Bryan J. Adams is reminding Louisiana families about the importance of home heating safety following a fatal fire in Franklinton.

Around 2 p.m. on Tuesday, December 10, the Franklinton Fire Department responded to a call for a house fire located in the 1500 block of Madison Street. When firefighters arrived, they found a 90-year-old man outside reporting having attempted to save his adult daughter unsuccessfully. Unfortunately, the woman was found in a bedroom and did not survive.

While the official identification and cause of death are pending with the Coroner's Office, the victim is believed to be a 65-year-old resident of 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, one of the possible causes being considered is a space heater plugged into a power strip placed too closely to flammable objects.

As the state heads into a period of consistently cold temperatures, 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 flammable objects 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 have working smoke alarms. Unfortunately, circumstances regarding the victim's mobility contributed to her inability to escape despite the early warning of a 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.

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