



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Department of Public Safety & Corrections • Public Safety Services

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Opelousas Restaurant Fire Kills Three People

ST. LANDRY PARISH (September 13, 2025) - State Fire Marshal (SFM) deputies are investigating a restaurant fire that killed three people.

The Opelousas Fire Department responded to a working fire at Fat Belly's Diner, located at 317 East Jefferson Street in Opelousas, around 2:22 a.m., Saturday, September 13, 2025. The 48-year-old restaurant owner, his 33-year-old girlfriend, and her 9-year-old daughter, were living in a residential area connected to the business and died in the fire.

SFM investigators are working to determine the origin and cause of the fire. The building did not have working smoke alarms.

DPS Principal Assistant, Chief Bryan J Adams encourages all Louisiana residents to ensure their homes are protected with smoke alarms. If you do not have one or need help installing one, the Department's Operation Save-A-Life program provides free smoke alarms and installation.

SFM investigators would like to thank Opelousas Fire and Police for their assistance in this case.

Visit lasfm.org to learn more or contact your local fire department to request a free smoke alarm and installation.

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