



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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One Dead, Three Injured in Baldwin House Fire

ST. MARY PARISH- State Fire Marshal (SFM) deputies continue to investigate a house fire in Baldwin that claimed the life of a disabled, elderly man and injured a mother and her two sons.

Just before 4 a.m. on Monday, November 6, the Baldwin Fire Department responded to a call for a house fire located in the 400 block of East Bollard Street. Upon arrival, firefighters found the home on fire and a nearby mobile home catching fire.

It was learned that there had been four people inside of the home at the time of the fire and five inside of the mobile home including several children. The mobile home residents were able to escape unharmed, however, three of the four house occupants, which included a mother and her two sons, one a teenager, escaped with injuries that required a brief hospitalization. The body of a fourth occupant, a disabled man, was later located in a bedroom despite efforts by the female occupant, his daughter, to save him.

While official identification and cause of death are pending with the parish Coroner's Office, at this time, the victim is believed to be the 83-year-old homeowner.

Following an assessment of the scene, deputies have narrowed down the likely area of origin to the center of the house. While the investigation into the exact cause of the fire continues, deputies have been unable to rule out the possibility of an electrical malfunction as a potential contributing factor.

While many fire hazards can lead to tragedy in our homes, one of the most common fatal home fire causes, electrical malfunction, can be avoided by having a licensed electrician inspect and repair any concerning electrical activity.

Lastly, deputies were unable to locate working smoke alarms in the home. The SFM wants to stress to all Louisiana residents that smoke alarms have proven to be the difference between life and death in a fire emergency. If you need assistance obtaining smoke alarms for your home, Operation Save-A-Life can help. To learn more about Operation Save-A-Life, or to register for a free smoke alarm, visit our website at lasfm.org or contact your local fire department to request a free smoke alarm installation.

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