



# News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Mother and Daughter Die in Fire; Four Other Family Members Hospitalized**

**Holden, LA-** State Fire Marshal H. “Butch” Browning released information in reference to an early morning fire that has claimed the life of a mother and her daughter; while they were asleep in their mobile home.

The Livingston Parish Fire Protection District 10 was dispatched at 12:38 am to 25498 Hob Hodges Road for a report that a home was on fire. Firefighters arrived minutes later to discover the double wide mobile home to be fully involved in flames. A father and three of his children barely escaped the inferno; they were transported to North Oaks Medical Center in Hammond. They all suffered non-life threatening injuries. His wife and his daughter were not able to exit the building before becoming overcome by fire and smoke. Elizabeth L. Ballard (dob. 10-14-81) and Michelle Ballard (dob. 11-8-04) were both pronounced dead at the scene by the Livingston Parish Coroner.

The State Fire Marshal was called to investigate this tragic fire and determine the cause. Fire marshal deputies spent several hours conducting initial examinations of the fire scene and have not found any suspicious circumstances. There were multiple space heaters in operation at the time of the fire, however it has not been determined if any of them played a role in the cause of the fire. No working smoke alarms were in the home.

Fire Marshal Browning stated, “I commend the great work of the fire department in arriving and preserving the lives that they did. One of the children successful escaped by “Crawling Low in Smoke”, a fire safety lesson she learned in school. We must take every step to ensure that all homes in Louisiana have working smoke alarms”.

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