



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Home Fire Claims the Lives of Two, Sends Four to the Hospital

NATCHITOCHES PARISH- State Fire Marshal deputies continue to investigate the circumstances surrounding a mobile home fire that claimed the lives of a grandmother and 6-year-old child, and left four other family members with smoke inhalation.

Natchitoches Fire Protection District #9 responded to the call about the fire in the 100 block of Brite Star Church Road in Campti around 5:30 a.m. on Sunday, December 9.

Investigators learned the home's six occupants were asleep when a 71-year-old female occupant awoke to the smell of smoke. Three adults and two of the children were able to escape the home initially. However, when it was discovered the third child, a 6-year-old girl, was unaccounted for, the female adult occupant re-entered the home to locate the child.

Investigators later located the bodies of the adult female and female child together.

The Natchitoches Parish Coroner's Office took custody of the bodies and will determine identifications and causes of death.

The remaining occupants, which include an 8-year-old boy, a 7-year-old boy, the children's father and grandfather, were taken to a nearby hospital for treatment of smoke inhalation.

Due to the extent of the fire, at this time, investigators are unable to rule out several potential causes, which include a wood burning stove in the area investigators believe the fire originated. Investigators do not believe the fire to be suspicious at this time. There were no smoke alarms located in the home.

This tragedy is an unfortunate example of the need for planned and practiced home escape plans. We advise all families to be familiar with two ways out of every room in your home and to have a safe meeting point outside and away from the home.

The State Fire Marshal's Office has now investigated 66 fatal fires accounting for 73 lives lost this year. The SFM's Area 3, encompassing Alexandria, Lafayette and Lake Charles regions, has experienced 18 of those

fatalities, of which seven have been in Natchitoches Parish. Six of those seven fire deaths have been inside of the town limits of Campti. While the exact causes of the fires associated with those Campti deaths remain Undetermined for now, all incidents indicated some level of electrical issues due to improper wiring in the homes that burned.

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