



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Teen, Toddler Die in Mobile Home Fire

CLAIBORNE PARISH- The State Fire Marshal's Office is investigating the circumstances surrounding a mobile home fire that claimed the life of a 16-year-old girl and 4-year-old boy.

Claiborne Parish firefighters responded to the fire call just before 2:45 a.m. on Wednesday, December 26, in the 200 block of Turner Road in Homer.

Upon arrival, firefighters learned there had been six occupants in the home at the time of the fire which included a grandmother, mother, and four siblings ranging in age from 3-years-old to 20. However, two of the occupants remained unaccounted for.

Firefighters and SFM deputies later discovered the bodies of the 16-year-old girl and 4-year-old boy, just feet apart, in a bedroom they had been sleeping in. Evidence indicates the children had attempted to escape. Official identification of the children is pending with the Claiborne Parish Coroner's Office.

The investigation into the official cause of the fire is still on-going. However, investigators have learned through witness statements that one of the occupants noticed smoke when moving from one room, where she had been watching TV, to another, where she was going to go to sleep. The occupant told investigators when she looked into the unoccupied room where the smoke was coming from, she saw flames on the wall near an outlet that the family had reported having recent issues with.

Investigators also learned the home had no working smoke alarms. The SFM would like to remind all Louisiana residents about our Operation Save-A-Life program, which partners with local fire departments and districts to install free smoke alarms in homes that need them. Visit lasfm.org for more information on the program.

We'd also like to remind families about the importance of having a practiced home escape plan that includes knowing two ways out of every room in your home and establishing a meeting place outside of the home that is safely away from the structure.

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