



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Man Dies in Eros Mobile Home Fire

OUACHITA PARISH- State Fire Marshal (SFM) deputies continue investigating a mobile home fire in Eros that claimed the life of the disabled owner.

Around 5:15 a.m. on December 27, the Ouachita Parish Fire Department responded to a call for a mobile home fire located in the 200 block of Lottie Lane in Eros.

Firefighters later located the body of a man in what is believed to have been a hallway. While official identification and cause of death are pending an autopsy, the victim is believed to be the 63-year-old male homeowner.

Following an assessment of the scene, deputies determined the fire originated in one of the home's bedrooms. While the official cause of this fire remains undetermined at this time, deputies cannot rule out potential electrical malfunction, the possibility of unsafe heating practices involving space heaters or unsafe smoking practices.

The State Fire Marshal's Office would like to discourage Louisiana residents from smoking indoors and when tired or impaired. The SFM would also like to remind residents to practice safe home heating as cold temperatures make themselves a mainstay across our state. Some of the top safety tips are:

- Place space heaters 3-5 feet from combustible objects like blankets
- Plug all heating appliances directly into wall outlets, not power strips or extension cords
- Do not use stoves or ovens to heat homes
- Don't overfill fireplaces/wood burning stoves
- Do not leave candles/open flames (or space heaters) left unattended
- Have working smoke alarms in your home!

Witness statements indicate that there was a smoke alarm installed in this home last week, however, the victim did suffer from mobility issues. The SFM's Operation Save-A-Life program partners with local fire departments and districts to provide FREE smoke alarm installations, at any time of the year, for families in need of assistance accessing the critical emergency-alert equipment.

In addition to having working smoke alarms, the SFM also emphasizes the importance of having planned and practiced escape routes for your home that include knowing two ways out of every room. To register for a free smoke alarm, or learn more about Operation Save-A-Life, visit lasfm.org.

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