



# NEWS RELEASE

## OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Department of Public Safety & Corrections • Public Safety Services  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### Woman Dies in Bunkie House Fire

**AVOYELLES PARISH-** State Fire Marshal (SFM) deputies continue investigating the circumstances surrounding a weekend house fire in Bunkie that claimed the life of the sole, female occupant. This was the first fire fatality of 2021.

Around 1:45 p.m. on January 2, the Bunkie Fire Department responded to a report of residential fire located in the 4300 block of Highway 1176. Firefighters later located the body of a female in a bedroom.

While official identification is pending, the victim is believed to be the 66-year-old homeowner.

Following an assessment of the scene, deputies have determined the fire originated in the attic over the home's den. While the official cause of this fire remains undetermined at this time, SFM investigators are unable to rule out a possible electrical malfunction as a contributing factor.

It is unknown whether this home had working smoke alarms at the time of the fire. In addition, firefighters had to work through excessive contents inside of the home, not only to locate the victim, but to extinguish this fire safely.

The State Fire Marshal's Office would like to remind Louisiana residents how important it is to keep exits clear for quick access in the event of an emergency like fire. This is important not only for everyone in your home to get out, but for first responders to get in to conduct rescues and to preserve as much of your property as possible, without being trapped or harmed in the process.

In addition, it is highly recommended to have a home escape plan for every occupant of your home to be familiar with. This plan should identify two ways out of every room in your home as well as a safe meeting place outside where a head count can be taken and first responders can be called.

The SFM would also like to stress the importance of having working smoke alarms. If you need assistance obtaining smoke alarms for your home, Operations Save-A-Life can help. The program partners with local fire departments to install smoke alarms for free. To learn more about Operation Save-A-Life, visit our website at [lasfm.org](http://lasfm.org).

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