



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Winnfield Woman Dies in House Fire

WINN PARISH- State Fire Marshal (SFM) deputies continue investigating a deadly house fire in Winnfield that claimed the life of a female resident.

Just before 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 19, the Winnfield Fire Department responded to a report of a house fire located in the 1400 block of South Grove Street. Upon arrival, firefighters learned there were two people at the home at the time of the fire; one was able to escape but the other did not make it out. Firefighters later located the victim in a bedroom.

Official identification and cause of death are pending with the Winn Parish Coroner's Office, however, the victim is believed to be a 37-year-old female tenant.

After an assessment of the scene and collecting witness statements, SFM deputies determined the fire started on the inside of the home. While the exact cause is still undetermined, deputies have been unable to rule out multiple electrical deficiencies with regards to wiring and improper use of extension cords as possible contributing factors.

When it comes to electrical safety, the SFM recommends avoiding the continued use of appliances or areas of a home with concerning electrical activities until a licensed electrician can review and repair any issues found. Also, avoid long-term use of extension cords and be aware of the wattage limitations of those cords and power strips to avoid overloading them which can cause overheating and become a fire hazard.

In addition, deputies were unable to confirm the presence of working smoke alarms in the home. The SFM wants to stress to all Louisiana residents that smoke alarms have proven to be the difference between life and death in a fire emergency. If you need assistance obtaining smoke alarms for your home, Operations Save-A-Life can help. To learn more about Operation Save-A-Life, visit our website at lasfm.org.

"Sixty-three Louisianans have now lost their lives in fire-related tragedies this year. That's more than last year's fire-related deaths in total and we're just now starting the time of year where we see an increase in home fires and fire-related deaths," said State Fire Marshal Dan Wallis, "We need every Louisianan to commit to prioritizing their safety

inside of their homes and it starts with having at least one working smoke alarm to protect your family when they lay their head down as soon as tonight.”

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