



# NEWS RELEASE

## OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Department of Public Safety & Corrections • Public Safety Services  
8181 Independence Blvd. • Baton Rouge, LA 70806

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:** Ashley Rodrigue  
Public Affairs Director

**DATE:** 2/13/23

**PHONE:** 225-620-5115  
[ashley.rodrigue@la.gov](mailto:ashley.rodrigue@la.gov)

### Thibodaux Woman Dies in House Fire

**LAFOURCHE PARISH-** State Fire Marshal (SFM) deputies continue investigating a house fire in Thibodaux that claimed the life of a female resident.

Just before 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 11, the Thibodaux Volunteer Fire Department responded to a report of a house fire located in the 100 block of N 11th Street. Unfortunately, the body of a female occupant was discovered in a bed.

On behalf of the Lafourche Parish Coroner's Office, the SFM is releasing the identity of the victim who is 65-year-old Patricia Cooper Kennedy.

Following an assessment of the scene and collecting witness statements, deputies have determined the fire began in the room where the victim was located. At this time, the cause of the fire remains undetermined with the inability to rule out unsafe smoking practices as a potential factor.

While the cause of this fire is still being investigated, the SFM would like to remind Louisianans about the importance of fire safety awareness and prevention when it comes to smoking:

- Always smoke outdoors
- Ensure smoking materials are fully extinguished and discarded in appropriate containers
- Keep smoking materials, especially spark-producing objects like lighters, out of the reach of children

In addition, deputies have confirmed there were no working smoke alarms in the home. Smoke alarms are proven to be the difference between life and death in a fire emergency. The SFM's Operation Save-A-Life partners with local fire departments to install smoke alarms for free for families that need them most. To learn more about the program and register for a smoke alarm, visit [lasfm.org](http://lasfm.org). You can also contact your local fire department to request a smoke alarm installation.

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