



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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

www.lasfm.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Ashley Rodrigue
Public Affairs Director

DATE: 6/25/24

PHONE: 225-620-5115
osfm.publicaffairs@la.gov

State Fire Marshal Advocates Home Escape Planning Following Fatal Fire in Monroe

OUACHITA PARISH (June 25, 2024)- State Fire Marshal Chief Bryan J. Adams is reminding Louisiana families about the importance of having a practiced home fire escape plan after the tragic loss of a Monroe woman in a house fire.

Around 2:30 a.m. on Friday, June 21, the Ouachita Parish Fire Department responded to a call for a house fire located in the 1100 block of Rowland Road in Monroe. Firefighters learned there had been three people inside at the time of the fire. After being alerted by the home's smoke alarms, the 52-year-old female homeowner was able to gather her 32-year-old daughter, who had special needs, and her infant grandchild to head toward an exit door. She told firefighters as they were escaping, she and the 32-year-old became separated. Firefighters later located the unconscious 32-year-old and attempted life-saving measures, but those were unfortunately unsuccessful.

Through the initial investigation, State Fire Marshal (SFM) deputies determined the fire began in the carport area. At this time, the exact cause of the fire remains undetermined.

"This is a devastating loss for this family. But what's even more heartbreaking is that they seemingly did everything right to have the best opportunity to survive a fire," said Chief Adams, "That's why it's important to remember, in addition to working smoke alarms, it's critical to have a practiced home escape plan to know what to do when that smoke alarm sounds."

A home escape plan should include ensuring everyone in the home knows two ways out of every room and has a common meeting place outside to report to. This plan should be put into practice at least once a month to build confidence in knowing what to do especially for children and adults with disabilities and/or sensitivities.

Contact your local fire department to assist your family with developing a specialized home escape plan and/or to assist with installing free smoke alarms as part of our Operation Save-A-Life program.

-END-END-END-END-