



News Release

Office of the Louisiana State Fire Marshal
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Heroic Efforts of Vinton Firefighters Save Two Lives in Fire

Baton Rouge LA, State Fire Marshal H. “Butch” Browning announced today that the quick actions of Firefighters saved the lives of a mother and her son when their home caught on fire. The fire occurred on December 18, 2010 at 2:21am. The home was located at 1420 Simmons Street in Vinton.

Upon the arrival of the Vinton Fire Department, Firefighters found the single family home burning with dangerous heat and smoke bellowing from the dwelling. The son was found in the yard, in need of immediate medical assistance. Neighbors informed responders that the mother was still inside but the dangerous conditions would not allow them to enter. Vinton Firefighters immediately entered the home and rescued the mother who was suffering from cardiac arrest. Emergency medical care was administered and she was transported to Cal-Cam Hospital in Sulphur, where she is listed in critical condition. The son was treated and released from Christus St. Patrick’s Hospital in Lake Charles.

The State Fire Marshal’s Office was called to investigate the cause of this fire and determine the reason for the injuries. The fire originated in the living room. Smoke and flames progressed very quickly to other areas of the residence. Electrical space heaters were found in the living room and preliminary findings indicate this was the possible cause of the inferno. There were no working smoke alarms in the home which contributed to the lack of early notification to alert the occupants to escape safely.

Fire Marshal Browning stated, “I commend Chief Jerry Merchant and the members of the Vinton, Sulphur and Ward 7 Fire Departments for their life saving actions. The Calcasieu Parish community is well served by these dedicated men and woman.”

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