



News Release

OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Marrero Home Heavily-Damaged By Fire; One Dead

Elderly husband tells wife to leave; stays behind to fight fire with an extinguisher

Marrero, LA – State Fire Marshal investigators are assisting local authorities in determining what caused a fire that inflicted significant damaged to a Marrero home and whether the fire contributed to the death of one of the owners of the wood frame, brick-veneered home.

Authorities were notified of the fire which began just after 8:00 p.m. Monday night in the 1200 block of Lincoln Avenue. Shortly after the fire was brought under control by firefighters, the body of one of the occupants, 80-year-old Edward Wicker, was found lying on the floor in the kitchen area of the residence that he shared with his wife.

While the investigation is continuing, investigators have determined the fire to have originated in the laundry room. According to the victim's wife, she alerted her husband after she discovered flames emanating from the clothes dryer. She left the area after being told by her husband to call 911 and to move the couple's vehicle from the carport.

It appears that the victim remained behind in an attempt to fight the fire with a portable fire extinguisher, which was discovered near the body. No formal determination has been made as to the cause of death and an autopsy is pending.

It should be stressed that while every home should be equipped with at least one working fire extinguisher, they are best used on small fires or those that have just started. However, experts say that when facing bigger fires, people should just leave immediately, as on average fires double in size every 30 seconds.

"If a fire is bigger than a frying pan, just get out of the house. Things can be replaced...people can't," said State Fire Marshal H. "Butch" Browning.

Thus far, the State Fire Marshal's Office has investigated 45 fires that resulted in 58 deaths in 2014.

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