



News Release

OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Department of Public Safety & Corrections
Public Safety Services

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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De Soto Man Dies After Escaping Burning Home

Keatchie, LA – State Fire Marshal investigators responded to a fire where a man, with his wife, escaped the fire at his home, only to die shortly afterward as a result of cardiac arrest.

Homeowner David Rainwater, 63, was awakened from sleep by his dogs which were barking shortly before 3:00 a.m. in his home, located at 11185 Hwy 5, in the small town of Keatchie, in northwest De Soto Parish.

Investigators were told that when he opened the door to exit his bedroom, Rainwater saw flames emanating from a bedroom on the opposite end of the manufactured home. He immediately roused his wife, Marie Rainwater, out of sleep and the couple successfully exited the structure with their dogs and without injury.

While placing the pets in his truck, Rainwater told his wife to ride with a passerby to seek assistance and that he would follow shortly after. However, upon the arrival of a De Soto Parish Sheriff's deputy moments later, Rainwater, who had a history of heart disease and had suffered two (2) previous heart attacks, was found to be unresponsive and without a pulse. Emergency medical responders began CPR on Rainwater while transporting him to an area hospital where he was subsequently pronounced dead.

Upon examining the scene, investigators were able to determine that the fire began in a bedroom on the east end of the residence after a chair was ignited by a portable electric heater. The fire caused extensive damage to the home.

“While space heaters are an inexpensive means to heat a home,” said State Fire Marshal H. “Butch” Browning, Jr., “They also can be very dangerous if placed too close to combustible items. Nothing should be within three (3) feet of a space heater.”

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News Release – Addendum (Keatchie Fatal Fire; 11/23/15)



Photograph courtesy of Louisiana Office of State Fire Marshal.



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