



# 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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## One Dead in Mardi Gras Day Fire

**Baldwin, LA** – State Fire Marshal investigators are focusing on an electrical wall outlet as the possible cause of a deadly fire in Baldwin Tuesday.

Investigators were dispatched to 1128 Bonin Lane in Baldwin where St. Mary Parish firefighters responded to a residential structure fire shortly after 1:00 p.m. Tuesday. After extinguishing the fire, crews located the body of 79-year-old Lionel Bonin, Jr. in a bedroom of the wood-framed home.

After being examined by investigators, the victim's body was released to the St. Mary Parish Coroner for autopsy.

The victim's wife informed investigators that while watching television with her husband, she detected an odor of something burning in the residence, prompting her to investigate. When she entered an area in the north end of the structure, she observed flames emanating from behind two large appliances.

Upon alerting her husband of the fire, the victim reportedly assisted her in escaping from the home before re-entering the residence.

Investigators have established that the wall behind the appliances was the area where the fire originated.

The investigation into the cause of the fire, which destroyed the home, continues.

**END - END - END**

Louisiana Office of State Fire Marshal

**NEWS RELEASE – ADDENDUM**

**Mardi Gras Day Fire – March 1, 2017**



Photo courtesy of the Louisiana Office of State Fire Marshal

