



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Marion Fire Claims the Life of 91-Year-Old Man, Two Pets

UNION PARISH- State Fire Marshal deputies continue to investigate the circumstances surrounding a house fire that claimed the lives of an elderly homeowner and his two dogs.

The Northeast Union Parish Fire Department responded to the call about the fire in the 2200 block of Alabama Landing Rd. in Marion around 3:15 p.m. on Monday, January 15.

SFM investigators arrived while firefighters were still extinguishing the fire. However, deputies were informed by family members and neighbors that the homeowner, 91-year-old Robert Jones, was still inside with his two Labrador retrievers.

Investigators later located Jones' body, along with both dogs' remains, in the home's living room.

After assessing the scene and collecting witness statements, investigators determined the fire originated in the home's living room. Jones was known to use a wood-burning stove in the living room to heat his home.

While the exact cause of the fire remains undetermined at this time, investigators cannot rule out the possibility of the use of gasoline in a wood-burning stove, or combustibles too close to the wood-burning stove, as contributors to the fire.

As cooler temperatures have returned to our state, with predictions of freezing weather settling in next week, we'd like to remind Louisiana citizens about the acceptable ways to safely heat your home:

- If using space heaters, make sure they are newer models with tip-over and over-heating shutoff mechanisms
- Keep space heaters 3-5 feet away from combustibles like blankets and comforters
- Do not use stoves or ovens to heat your home
- Make sure wood-burning fireplaces/stoves contain no more than three logs and are clear of combustible items

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