



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Marrero Man Dies in Overnight House Fire

JEFFERSON PARISH- State Fire Marshal deputies continue to investigate the circumstances surrounding a house fire involving one death in Marrero.

Just after 1 a.m. on Wednesday, June 5, Marrero Harvey Volunteer Fire Company #1 responded to a fire call in the 400 block of Avenue A. Firefighters eventually located the body of a man in a rear bedroom of the home, which is described as a split, double shotgun-style house. A second occupant of the home was able to escape unharmed.

While official identification is still pending with the Jefferson Parish Coroner's Office, the victim is believed to be a 60-year-old resident of the home.

Investigators have determined the fire began in the back bedroom of the home; however, an exact cause is still under investigation. At this time, deputies do not consider this fire to be suspicious and are not ruling out the possibility of improper smoking practices as a contributing factor.

Investigators believe working smoke alarms in the home not only contributed to the additional occupant avoiding injury, but also assisted the fire department's ability to respond quickly and contain the fire damage to the affected side of the structure.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), smoking was the leading cause of home fire deaths in the U.S. for the five-year period of 2012-2016. According to the NFPA's statistics, 43% of smoking-related deaths were caused by fires that started in the living room; 34% were caused by fires that started in bedrooms.

The SFM encourages all residents to follow simple smoking safety practices including lighting up outside only, discarding all smoking materials in an appropriate ash tray, ensuring they are fully extinguished, and keeping all smoking materials out of the reach of children.

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