



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Department of Public Safety & Corrections • Public Safety Services
8181 Independence Blvd. • Baton Rouge, LA 70806

www.lasfm.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Ashley Rodrigue
Public Affairs Director

DATE: 5/5/20

PHONE: 225-620-5115
ashley.rodrigue@la.gov

Mother, Son Die in Homer House Fire

CLAIBORNE PARISH- State Fire Marshal deputies continue to investigate the circumstances surrounding a house fire that claimed the life of a 60-year-old woman and her 28-year-old son in Homer.

Around 2:45 a.m. Tuesday, May 5, the Homer Fire Department responded to a house fire in the 900 block of Martin Luther King Jr. Street.

The body of the mother and son, both residents of the home, were later located inside; the female was located in a bedroom while the male was located in a hallway. Official identifications and preliminary causes of death are pending with the Claiborne Parish Coroner's Office.

After assessing the scene, SFM investigators determined the fire originated in the home's den area. At this time the exact cause of the fire is undetermined, however the potential for electrical malfunction in relation to a window A/C unit powered via extension cord is being considered as a possible factor.

Investigators have not been able to locate working smoke alarms in the home.

State Fire Marshal Chief H. "Butch" Browning would like to encourage the public to keep some simple fire hazard tips in mind when it comes to electrical safety in the home. "You should always be plugging your large appliances directly into wall outlets and only be using extension cords temporarily," he said, "In addition, make sure not to overload power strips and if you become aware of an appliance malfunctioning, discontinuing using it until a licensed professional can examine, and if needed, appropriately repair the appliance."

In addition, Browning wants to remind Louisiana residents about the importance of working smoke alarms. If you have smoke alarms in your home, make sure to test them once a month. If you don't have smoke alarms, get them. If you cannot afford smoke alarms, visit our website, lasfm.org, to learn more about our Operation Save-A-Life program that partners with local fire departments to install free smoke alarms for families that need the assistance.

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