



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: 2/27/23

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

DeQuincy Woman Dies in House Fire

CALCASIEU PARISH- State Fire Marshal (SFM) deputies continue investigating a house fire in DeQuincy that claimed the life of a female resident and injured a male resident.

Just before 6:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 22, the Ward Six Fire Department responded to a report of a house fire located in the 1100 block of Rigmaiden Cemetery Road in DeQuincy. Firefighters arrived to find a male resident outside of the home attempting to rescue a female resident still inside. Unfortunately, the 76-year-old woman's body was later located in a bedroom. Sadly, three dogs and a cat died in the fire as well.

The male resident, who was burned during the rescue attempt, was treated at a local hospital and has since been released.

Following an assessment of the scene and collecting witness statements, deputies have determined the fire began in the living room of the home. At this time, the cause of the fire remains undetermined with the inability to rule out a home heating-related contributing factor.

While the cause of this fire is still being investigated, the SFM would like to remind Louisianans about the importance of home heating safety:

- Place space heaters 3-5 feet from combustible objects like blankets and curtains
- Plug all heating appliances directly into wall outlets, not power strips or extension cords
- Do not use stoves, ovens, or grills to heat homes
- Don't overfill fireplaces/wood-burning stoves
- Do not leave candles/open flames (or space heaters) left unattended

In addition, deputies have confirmed there were no working smoke alarms in the home. Smoke alarms are proven to be the difference between life and death in a fire emergency. The SFM's Operation Save-A-Life partners with local fire departments to install smoke alarms for free for families that need them most. To learn more about the program and register for a smoke alarm, visit lasfm.org. You can also contact your local fire department to request a smoke alarm installation.