



# Marion County Board of County Commissioners Marion County Fire Rescue

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[www.marioncountyfl.org/firerescue.htm](http://www.marioncountyfl.org/firerescue.htm)



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## **MULTIPLE FATALITY STRUCTURE FIRE INVESTIGATION REVEALS NEW INFORMATION**

Immediate Release

**MARION COUNTY, Fla.** (Nov. 23, 2009)–The Florida State Fire Marshal’s Office has released preliminary findings from the district medical examiner’s office confirming (through physical identification) the five fatalities from Saturday morning’s fire are: one adult female, three children and one infant.

After an initial physical examination, the medical examiner’s office found smoke and soot in the airways and lungs of the five victims. While this finding is not the official cause of death, it confirms the victims were breathing at the time of the fire. The Florida State Fire Marshal’s Office will continue to investigate the cause of this fire. The medical examiner’s office is working to determine the approximate age and identity of the five fatalities.

This incident accounts for the highest number of fatalities in a Marion County single-structure fire in 20 years. When Marion County Fire Rescue firefighters responded to the single-wide mobile home fire early Saturday morning (11290 NW 20th St., Ocala), the home was fully engulfed in flames, and the roof had collapsed.

The most important tools in preventing a tragedy such as this are having two working smoke detectors and having a fire escape plan for your home. MCFR will provide and install dual-mode smoke alarms free of charge for citizens who cannot afford them through its “Get Alarmed” smoke alarm program. For more information, call 352-291-8000 or visit [www.marioncountyfl.org/firerescue.htm](http://www.marioncountyfl.org/firerescue.htm).

MCFR firefighters encourage citizens to take the following fire safety precautions:

- Install smoke alarms in every sleeping area of the home as well as in common areas such as living rooms and hallways.
- Replace smoke alarm batteries at least twice a year when the time changes or when the low battery alarm chirps.
- Never “borrow” a battery from your smoke alarms because you will likely forget to replace it.
- Test and inspect each smoke alarm at least once a month to make sure it’s working properly.
- Create a fire escape plan, and practice it at least twice a year, identifying two exits from every room and establishing a safe meeting place outside.

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