



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY**

John J. Barthelmes, Commissioner

***Division of Fire Safety***

**Office of the State Fire Marshal**

J. William Degnan, State Fire Marshal



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**DATE: December 13, 2016**

**CONTACT: Sean Plumer, Fire Investigator  
John Reese, Manchester Deputy Fire Marshal**

**Woman perishes in Manchester Building Fire**

**MANCHESTER** – New Hampshire State Fire Marshal J. William Degnan, Manchester Fire Chief Daniel Goonan, and Manchester Police Chief Nick Willard announce that the victim of the fire that occurred at approximately 8:45PM on November 21, 2016 at 557 Pine Street, Unit 6 has perished.

Upon arrival, fire department personnel encountered heavy fire conditions coming from the second floor of the 2-story multi-unit apartment building. The first arriving crews rescued an adult female subject who was located in a second floor hallway, and was removed to awaiting EMS personnel. The victim was then transported to the Elliot Hospital and subsequently flown to a Boston Hospital for further treatment. The victim succumbed to her injuries related to this fire on December 12, 2016 in Boston, MA.

The Cause and Manner of Death are pending an autopsy that will take place at the Massachusetts State Medical Examiner's Office.

The investigation into the Origin & Cause of the fire has revealed that the fire originated in the living room of the apartment and was a result of smoking while using medical oxygen.

Marshal Degnan and Chief Goonan would like to warn all citizens of the extreme dangers of smoking while using or in close proximity to medical oxygen. Rapid fire development and increased intensity can occur, causing serious injury or death. Smoking is the leading cause of burns, reported fires, deaths, and injuries involving home medical oxygen. Please also take time to ensure you have working smoke alarms in your home and have a home fire escape plan.

Any further inquiries can be directed to the NH State Fire Marshal's Office – Bureau of Investigations, Investigator Sean Plumer at 603-223-4289 or Deputy Fire Marshal John Reese of the Manchester Fire Marshal's Office at 603-669-2256.