



LAKELAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: Wednesday, May 17, 2017

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Brush Fire in Lakeland

Lakeland, FL – On Wednesday, May 17, 2017 at approximately 6:00 PM, the Lakeland Fire Department (LFD) was called to respond to a brush fire in the grassy area near and underneath the George Jenkins Blvd overpass where it transects with Kathleen Rd. Due to dry conditions and high winds, the fire spread quickly and was challenging to control. At the height of the incident, all LFD engines (8) and Tower 15 were on scene responding. Polk County Fire Rescue provided assistance with one brush truck and the Florida Forrest Service (FFS) provided assistance with three brush trucks. The fire was mostly contained by approximately 9:00 PM. No structures were damaged and no one was injured at the time of this release.

As of 9:30 PM:

East and west bound lanes of the George Jenkins Blvd overpass between Sloan Ave and Kathleen Rd will remain closed for approximately 6 to 8 hours through the evening and early morning while crews continue to work to completely contain the fire. The Lakeland Police Department is assisting with traffic control. LFD will have three units and crews on scene to assist the Florida Forrest Service as they work through the night to completely control the scene. All other units are released back into service to continue to provide emergency response to Lakeland. The FFS will be conducting small controlled burns in the area to assist the fire in burning out. Residents and motorists should not be alarmed. Motorists should avoid the area entirely due to road closures. Train traffic through the area has been delayed.

Photos and video are available on the Lakeland Fire Department's Twitter (@LakelandFD) and Facebook (/LakelandFD) pages.

- END -

Gary Ballard, Fire Chief

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