



LAKELAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Structure Fire at 1510 Ariana Street Caused by Smoking While Using Medical Oxygen

Lakeland, FL – The Lakeland Fire Department (LFD) responded to a structure fire overnight at 1510 Ariana Street in the Woodbrook Mobile Home Park at approximately 4:15 AM. Neighbors called reporting a fire at the home as well as screams coming from inside the home from a possible victim.

Upon arrival LFD firefighters encountered the homeowner in the front yard of the home with injuries sustained from the event. Firefighters were able to control the fire quickly and provided protection to surrounding structures.

The homeowner sustained injuries due to the event that caused the fire and was the only person in the home at the time of the fire. Fire Investigators determined that the fire was caused due to smoking in bed. The homeowner fell asleep while smoking and using medical oxygen.

The homeowner's injuries were determined to be serious enough to require helicopter transport to Tampa General Hospital for injuries to the airway. Lakeland Fire Department provided both the landing zone as well as medical care, along with Polk County Fire Rescue EMS.

This unfortunate event is a sobering reminder of the dangers of smoking while using medical oxygen. The Lakeland Fire Department recommends that individuals using medical oxygen never smoke. Additionally, for anyone that does smoke, they should never do so when groggy, tired, or sleepy as it can lead to a fire upon falling asleep; even if only for a moment. More information about *Medical Oxygen* and *Smoking Safety* can be found at the LFD website at www.lakelandgov.net/LFD.

Apparatus that responded included: Engine 21, Engine 71, Engine 41, Truck 73, Rescue 22, Battalion Chief 1; landing zone established Battalion Chief 2 and Engine 12.

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Gary Ballard, Fire Chief

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