



LAKELAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: Friday, March 14, 2014

Contact: Janel Vasallo, Public Education / Information Officer
Telephone: (863) 834-8219
Fax: (863) 834-8222
Email: janel.vasallo@lakelandgov.net

Firefighters Respond to Residential Fire Early Friday Morning

Lakeland --- At approximately 7:45 AM, the Lakeland Fire Department (LFD) responded to a structure fire at a residence located at 614 6th Street W, Lakeland, FL.

The home was occupied by owner and sole resident Beverly McChester. The resident was asleep at the time the fire broke out and was fortunately awakened by the smell of smoke, a rare occurrence. The home quickly became consumed by flames but the homeowner was able to escape unharmed through a back door. McChester was then assisted by neighbors in clearing the scene while LFD firefighters quickly arrived and put out the flames.

The fire is believed to have started in an unused bedroom of the two bedroom home. LFD's fire investigators are still investigating the cause of the fire; however there is some indication that it may have been accidental in nature. The fire caused extensive damage to the home and has been deemed a complete loss by investigators. Red Cross has provided assistance to the homeowner.

It was also determined the home did not have a working smoke alarm. This unfortunate incident is a good opportunity to remind residents that a working smoke alarm saves lives by providing ample notice to residents to escape in the rare event of a fire.

9 apparatuses and 22 LFD personnel responded to the incident. The scene was cleared by 9:10 AM.

Photos of the fire scene are attached.

~ END ~







