



LAKELAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Update: Origin and Cause Determined for Fire at North Lakeland Apartment Building that Displaced Residents of 24 Apartment Units

Lakeland, FL – The Lakeland Fire Department’s (LFD) Fire Investigators have successfully identified the origin and cause of the structure fire at an Arbor Glen Community apartment building, located at 4950 Deep Forest Ct, Lakeland, FL, which displaced the residents of 24 units. The fire was determined to be accidental in nature; caused by a misplaced screw or nail, through electrical wiring which degraded over time through repeated exposure to electricity, rendering the surrounding building materials susceptible to ignition. The fire began in the ceiling, above the breezeway between third story apartments located on the Southside of the building.

During the fire investigation, units that were safe to reenter were investigated and a total of four cats were reunited with their owners. All but one of the pets in the building have been accounted for.

The Lakeland Fire Department has cleared the scene, and the building has been turned over to property managers. The Northside of the building is not structurally sound and will not allow for re-entry by residents looking to recover items.

Released Monday, March 11, 2019:

Fire Burns Through North Lakeland Apartment Building. Displaces Residents of 24 Units.

Lakeland, FL- At approximately 5:30 PM, the Lakeland Fire Department (LFD) received a call for smoke showing from an apartment building in the Arbor Glen apartment community located at 4950 Deep Forest Ct, Lakeland, FL. Upon arriving, crews began evacuating residents, including the use of forceful entry into apartment units to ensure the safe evacuation of all residents. Upon successfully evacuating residents, crew began the search for the source of the smoke and found fire in the attic on the southside of the building. The fire quickly spread through the attic of the structure and the



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nature of the blaze intensified, which led to a defensive attack in attempts to control the blaze. An aerial water supply was provided from Tower 15, Engine 61, and Engine 71, which surrounded the building, as well as master-streams from the ground level. The fire was eventually contained by approximately 8:45 PM. Firefighters were then able to re-enter the structure to seek out and eliminate any hotspots and search for pets.

The fire displaced all of the residents of the apartment building's 24 units. There were no injuries to human residents, however the well-being of pets is still being assessed at the time of this release. Management at Arbor Glen apartments, a Greystone Property, is currently working with residents to contact their insurers and find accommodations. The American Red Cross was called in to assist and is helping the displaced residents.

Due to the intensity and size of the fire, many of the department's resources were called on. Mutual aid was provided by Polk County Fire Rescue (PCFR) on-scene and to assist in continuing emergency response in parts of LFD's coverage area until the fire could be contained. The Lakeland Police Department was on-scene during the entirety of the event.

Video of the event as it unfolded are available on the LFD Facebook and Twitter pages (@LakelandFD).



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