



LAKELAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Structure Fire: 4 Patients Transported. 1 Dog Received Care Through LFD/SPCA Partnership; First To Do So

Lakeland, FL – At approximately 9:30 AM, the Lakeland Fire Department responded to a structure fire at 1029 S Central Avenue. Crews arrived within minutes to find smoke inside. The fire was quickly extinguished and the occupants self-evacuated prior to crews' arrival.

The occupants, three children and one adult, were transported by Polk County Fire Rescue to Lakeland Regional Health due to smoke inhalation. Although their condition is stable, one of the children has been transferred to Tampa General Hospital. The cause of the fire is still under investigation and is undetermined however it appears to be accidental according to the department's Fire Inspector on scene. The fire began in one of the children's bedrooms. The rest of the home received extensive smoke damage. The occupants getting out when they did is a good reminder of the fire safety principal "Get Out, Stay Out" that the department wants every resident to know. At any sign of a fire, occupants should evacuate immediately leaving the fire and any other rescue efforts to the professional firefighters.

One canine, the family pet, suffered smoke inhalation and was transported to SPCA Florida's Medical Facility. The canine, a small mixed breed dog, is the first to be treated with emergency medical care as part of the LFD and SPCA Florida's partnership. As announced in a previous media release (<http://goo.gl/0eo01Z>) the department has entered a partnership with SPCA Florida and one of the components of the agreement is medical care for pets encountered on human emergency scenes. The dog received emergency care on scene by the department's skilled paramedics and firefighters prior to being transported. Once at SPCA Florida, the dog received excellent care including oxygen treatments as well as hyperbaric oxygen therapy to treat the smoke inhalation. The SPCA Florida's Medical Facility is one of only a few in the region to offer this kind of care (e.g. oxygen holding cells, hyperbaric oxygen units, etc.) for pets, particularly for injuries typical in a structure fire.

LFD units BC 2, E41, E11, E12, Tower 15, Car 14, and Car 13 responded, along with PCFR EMS.

- END -

Gary Ballard, Fire Chief

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