



# LAKELAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

## Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Monday, January 05, 2015

Contact: Janel Vasallo, Public Information / Education Officer

Telephone: (863) 834-8219

Cell: (863) 860-9011

Email: [janel.vasallo@lakelandgov.net](mailto:janel.vasallo@lakelandgov.net)

### **Bringing in the New Year with a New Fire Station**

Lakeland, FL – The Lakeland Fire Department's (LFD) newly constructed and much anticipated Fire Station 7 will be operational with Firefighters providing service from the new location by the second week of January 2015.

The new fire station has been under construction since late fall 2013. It is now nearly complete, with final details being addressed by City of Lakeland partners and contractors. An official grand opening ceremony will be held on Friday, January 16, 2015 at 11:00 AM. Media, community members, and public officials will be asked to join LFD to celebrate this exciting new addition to the City of Lakeland that will help better serve the community.

The new fire station will serve dual purposes, as a community fire station serving the southwest Lakeland community and as an Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) station for the Lakeland Linder Regional Airport.

Assistant Fire Chief Rick Hartzog, who has served as the fire department's project manager for the new station, explains "We are very excited to be able to provide service from the new station. The new Fire Station 7 is a one of a kind structure that is designed with the future in mind while meeting the needs of today and we are ecstatic to get to share that with our community."

Although the construction of the new Station 7 is just nearly complete, service to the Southwest quadrant of the Lakeland community has been provided from a temporary Fire Station 7 since early 2013 and service to the Lakeland Linder Regional Airport since 2006. The move from the temporary station to the new station prior to the grand opening ceremony on January 16, 2015 will not disturb regular service to the area in any way.

The media is invited for an exclusive look inside the new fire station on January 16, 2015 from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM prior to the official ceremony beginning. Officials will be on hand for interviews.

Please contact Janel Vasallo for any further information.

- END -

Gary Ballard, Fire Chief

701 E. Main Street Lakeland, FL 33801 | Phone (863)834-8200 | Fax (863)834-8295

[WWW.LAKELANDGOV.NET/LFD](http://WWW.LAKELANDGOV.NET/LFD)



[facebook.com/LakelandFD](https://www.facebook.com/LakelandFD)



[@LakelandFD](https://twitter.com/LakelandFD)