



LAKELAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Friday, November 8, 2013

Contact: Janel Vasallo, Public Education / Information Officer

Telephone: (863) 834-8219

Fax: (863) 834-8222

Email: janel.vasallo@lakelandgov.net

Lakeland Firefighters Respond to Lake Bentley Shores Condominium Fire, Four Injured,
Including One Firefighter

Lakeland --- At approximately 1:10 AM, on Friday, November 8, 2013, the Lakeland Fire Department (LFD) responded to a structure fire at Lake Bentley Shores Condominiums located at 1920 E. Edgewood Drive, Lakeland, FL. The fire effected building L, a two story building that housed eight apartment units.

Upon arrival, Lakeland Firefighters found heavy black smoke showing on both the lower and upper level of building L. Firefighters entered building L, quickly extinguishing the fire and evacuating residents. The fire originated in a back bedroom of unit 7 in building L. The cause of the fire is currently under investigation but investigators believe that it was not intentionally set.

Resident Lamarcus Carter, 58, resident of unit L7 where the fire originated sustained smoke inhalation and was transported to Lakeland Regional Medical Center (LRMC). A relative of Lamarcus and additional resident of Unit L7, Ross Carter, 23, was transported by helicopter to Tampa General Hospital for burns and smoke inhalation. Their current medical conditions are unknown to LFD. Fred Cottonjim, 77, a neighbor of the Carters sustained unknown non-fire related injuries while trying to evacuate and was also transported to LRMC for treatment.

In addition to the three residents injured and transported, Firefighter Alex Sanchez, 32, displayed signs of heat exhaustion as a result of fighting the blaze. He was transported to and treated at LRMC where he was released soon after at approximately 5:00 AM. Sanchez was one of several firefighters that entered the structure to both extinguish the fire and evacuate residents.

The Lakeland Fire Department responded with eight apparatuses and 18 personnel. The scene was cleared by 6:30 AM.

If any further information is needed contact Janel Vasallo.

Gary Ballard, Fire Chief

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

WWW.LAKELANDGOV.NET/LFD