



LAKELAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lakeland Fire Department Hires Ten New Firefighters. Start Monday, February 4.

Lakeland, FL - The Lakeland Fire Department (LFD) is pleased to announce the hiring of ten new firefighters that will begin duty on Monday, February 4, 2019. The new hires are filling vacancies from recent retirements, openings created as a result of internal promotions, and the addition of a rescue apparatus (Rescue 33) to better serve Lakeland.

The new firefighters will begin with the department's month-long orientation program at the Lakeland Fire Department's Training Center located at 901 Granada Street. Although all the new hires are certified firefighters, this training course is designed to teach the new firefighters how to do things the "Lakeland" way. They review a full spectrum of practical skills they need to perform on the job as well as emergency medical training before being released into the field. Of the ten new firefighters, one is certified as a paramedic, while the others are Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs).

The hiring process was selective because of the large pool of applicants. "Our hiring committee is confident that it selected the best available candidates and it's comforting to know that the new firefighters joining our ranks are highly skilled and qualified to continue providing the high quality emergency services our department is known for," said Training Chief John Almskog, who is the coordinator of the hiring effort and leader of the department's four-week orientation program.

The department strives to have a workforce that is representative of the community it serves. Of the ten new firefighters: two are military veterans, two are Hispanic, and one is African-American. Additionally, one of the newly hired firefighters was the recipient of the department's [Fire-Service Opportunity and Career for Underprivileged Students \(F.O.C.U.S.\)](#) Scholarship.

The new hires now bring the department to a total of 178 personnel whom, last year alone, responded to nearly 25,500 service calls.

For more information, interview requests with department representatives, filming at the training site, etc. please contact Janel Vasallo.

More About the Lakeland Fire Department:

The Lakeland Fire Department was established as a career-department in 1916. The Lakeland Fire Department has an Insurance Service Office (ISO) Public Protection Classification 1, the highest achievable rating. The department has seven stations serving approximately 100,000+ people in the City of Lakeland. The department has 178 employees, of which 156 are emergency response personnel. In 2018, the department responded to over 25,500 service calls in its 84 square-mile response area, which includes the city limits as well as portions of unincorporated Lakeland.

The department offers a wide range of services which includes heavy rescue, technical rescue, fire prevention, fire code enforcement, fire investigation, aircraft rescue and firefighting, and in-house fleet maintenance; all in addition to outstanding fire suppression and emergency medical response.



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The Lakeland Fire Department is also passionate about being an active participant in its community and consistently giving back through philanthropic efforts and through non-emergency services like community outreach and preventative public education.

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