



# LAKELAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

## Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Sunday, May 22, 2016

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### **Structure Fire at 115 Riggins Street; Displaces 2 Individuals**

Lakeland, FL – At approximately 3:06 AM, calls were received for an apartment on fire at 115 Riggins Street. Crews arrived minutes later to find heavy smoke pouring from a two story apartment building. Smoke alarms alerted the two sleeping occupants of the fire and they were able to safely self-evacuate prior to the arrival of fire units. One occupant sustained minor burns but refused medical treatment. Fire department personnel began an interior fire attack but were quickly pushed back due to high heat and rapidly deteriorating interior conditions, forcing a defensive attack. The fire was declared under control at 4:49 AM.

Lakeland Fire Investigators are actively working the scene to determine the cause of the fire; however, preliminary reports indicate the fire was accidental in nature. The structure fire caused an estimated \$50,000 dollars in property loss. While this property loss is unfortunate, it does serve as a sobering reminder of the importance of having working smoke alarms in your home. The American Red Cross was called to provide assistance to the displaced residents.

Responding units included Battalion Chief 1, Engine 11, Engine 41, Engine 21, Rescue 22, and Tower 15.

Gary Ballard, Fire Chief

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