



LAKELAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Monday, September 30, 2013

Contact: Janel Vasallo, Public Education / Information Officer

Telephone: (863) 834-8219

Fax: (863) 834-8222

Email: janel.vasallo@lakelandgov.net

Lakeland Fire Department's Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Team Provide Structural Support to Area Home after Vehicle Crashes into It

Lakeland --- Shortly before Noon on Sunday, September 29, 2013, the Lakeland Fire Department (LFD) responded to a call involving an out of control vehicle which had made its way through several front yards in the Crystal Lake neighborhood before coming to a halt upon crashing into the carport of a home located at 1713 Fredericksburg Ave..

Upon arrival, Lakeland Firefighters found a black Jeep Grand Cherokee that had crashed into the residence. The vehicle's driver reported blacking out and losing control of the SUV, which collided with two center support beams designed to hold up the carport's ceiling. The driver of the SUV was attended to by a Polk County Rescue Team shortly before LFD's arrival.

LFD's Lt. Stephen Lawrence assessed the structure upon arrival and noticed the possibility of a structural collapse that would require specialized support maneuvers to stabilize, so the LFD's Urban Search and Rescue Team were called in to assist.

Engine 51 was the responding apparatus; Tower Truck 15 and Heavy Recue Truck 14 were called in to provide structural support. Shoring was required to ensure the carport ceiling would not collapse during removal of the vehicle so initial structural support was provided by Tower Truck 15. Upon the crashed vehicle's removal from the area, additional shoring was provided by Heavy Rescue Truck 14 while Lakeland Firefighters built two "T" shore supports out of 4x4 wood beams. The structure supports were installed for the homeowners to ensure a temporary hold until assessments and rebuilding could be undertaken.

The Lakeland Fire Department responded with three apparatuses and 9 personnel.

Photos of the response are attached.

If any further information is needed contact Janel Vasallo.

Gary Ballard, Fire Chief

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

WWW.LAKELANDGOV.NET/LFD

Photos to Accompany Media Release: *Lakeland Fire Department's Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Team Provide Structural Support to Area Home after Vehicle Crashes into It, September 30, 2013.*



