



LAKELAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Elderly Lakeland Resident Hospitalized after Kitchen Fire in Home

Lakeland --- Early Tuesday, August 13, 2013, at approximately 12:35 AM, the Lakeland Fire Department (LFD) responded to a fire alarm at Apartment 204 of Bella Vista Apartments (810 E. Bella Vista Street, Lakeland, FL 33805). Upon arrival LFD discovered and extinguished a kitchen fire.

LFD fire investigators concluded that the source of the fire was a coffee cup warmer that was left on the front burner of the electric stove in the residence. The fire damaged the stove and cabinets directly above it. The heavy smoke led to additional damage to the apartment. Smoke alarms were present and working which notified the resident.

Resident Valarie Dapkus, 59, suffered smoke inhalation and minor burns to her chest and legs. She was initially transported to Lakeland Regional Medical Center and was later transferred to Tampa General Hospital where she remains as of the time of this media release. Her condition is currently listed as stable.

The Lakeland Fire Department responded with 7 apparatuses and 23 personnel. The fire was contained to the referenced apartment unit and smoke removal operations were undertaken.

If any further information is needed contact Janel Vasallo (contact information listed above).
