



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Fire Displaces Family of Three. Caused by Space Heater.**

Lakeland, FL - The Lakeland Fire Department responded to a structure fire at 714 Savannah Ave overnight at approximately 12:10 AM. Upon arriving they found the concrete block home approximately 75% involved with fire.

The fire was quickly extinguished upon the arrival of firefighters, however the damage was extensive enough to have displaced the residents: two adults, one child, and a dog. The American Red Cross is providing assistance.

Lakeland Fire Department investigators determined the fire was caused by a space heater that tipped over while residents slept, and fell near combustibles like clothing and other fabrics. The home had no working smoke alarms, however the residents were able to wake up and evacuate.

The Lakeland fire department is sharing the news of this unfortunate incident in hopes that it serves as a reminder to others to take special precautions to stay fire-safe; especially as temperatures plunge in the upcoming winter months.

#### **Safety Information:**

- **Install smoke alarms on every floor of your home and outside all sleeping areas and test them once a month.**
- Inspect heaters for cracked or broken plugs or loose connections before each use. If frayed, worn or damaged, do not use the heater.
- Never leave a space heater unattended. Turn it off when you're leaving a room or going to sleep, and don't let pets or children play too close to a space heater.
- Space heaters are only meant to provide supplemental heat and should never be used to warm bedding, cook food, dry clothing or thaw pipes.
- Proper placement of space heaters is critical. Heaters must be kept at least three feet away from anything that can burn, including papers, clothing and rugs.





# LAKELAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

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- Locate space heaters out of high traffic areas and doorways where they may pose a tripping hazard.
- Plug space heaters directly into a wall outlet. Do not use an extension cord or power strip, which could overheat and result in a fire. Do not plug any other electrical devices into the same outlet as the heater.
- Place space heaters on level, flat surfaces. Never place heaters on cabinets, tables, furniture, or carpet, which can overheat and start a fire.
- Always unplug and safely store the heater when it is not in use.

- END -



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