

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Training Center Complex Grand Opening Event**

Lakeland, FL - The Lakeland Fire Department is pleased to announce that after several years of planning and construction, its new Training Center Complex is completed and ready for use by Lakeland's firefighters.

To celebrate this exciting new addition to the department, a grand opening celebration will be held on Monday, January 4, 2021 at 9:00 AM at the facility's new address, 2450 W Lake Parker Drive, Lakeland, FL 33805.

The event will feature a hose uncoupling ceremony, a live training demonstration, tours, and refreshments. For more information please visit www.lakelandgov.net/LFD.

The event is open to the public. Safety precautions for the prevention of COVID-19 will be in place at this outdoor event. Temperature checks are required for entry and masks and social distancing will be required to attend.

More about the Training Center Project:

Training centers are crucial for fire departments, because it's essential for firefighters to practice the lifesaving skills needed for saving lives and property when emergencies happen. Additionally, thousands of hands-on training hours are required to meet national and state mandates that address quality and the latest life saving techniques. An old adage in the fire service is that firefighters train for a living, because when they're not saving lives, they are preparing for it.

The department's training center was originally established in 1960, with its training tower built in 1975; the previous training center had been serving the department's training needs for nearly 60 years.

The Lakeland Fire Department's new training center has been in the works for over eight years. It took several years of planning and funding before construction began in 2019. The department's original training center was in full operation, until construction plans for the new training center were finalized July 1, 2019.









All of the buildings on the premises, with the exception of the training tower, were demolished to make room for the new and improved facilities, which include several design considerations to prevent cross contamination with carcinogens. These features help avoid unnecessary exposures to potentially cancer-causing agents; a common hazard in the fire service.

The new training center is located in its original location, nestled between beautiful Lake Parker and Tigertown in Midtown Lakeland.

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