



LAKELAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Wednesday, November 11, 2015

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Fire Fatality in Lakeland's Citrus Center Colony Mobile Home Community

Lakeland, FL – At approximately 11:00 AM emergency calls were received for a structure fire with flames showing at 1005 Tangelo St. for a mobile home located inside the Citrus Center Colony. Calls were made by neighbors reporting a loud explosion followed by flames coming from the home. Lakeland Fire Department (LFD) crews arrived within minutes to find the structure approximately 40% consumed by fire. The intensity of the fire threatened neighboring homes, so in addition to extinguishing the fire at 1005 Tangelo, LFD firefighters also provided a defensive attack for neighboring units to avoid any further damage.

When the fire was contained enough to enter the structure firefighters entered to perform a primary search, which is when they encountered a deceased adult. The deceased individual was in the entry hallway of the home, approximately 5 feet from the main entrance.

Investigators are on scene. LFD fire investigators are performing the fire investigation to identify origin and cause of the fire and Lakeland Police Department (LPD) investigators are performing the death investigation. Investigators are currently in the process of identifying the body. Chemical agents are suspected on site so extra precautions are being taken by investigators. Findings as to exact cause of death for the individual involved will be determined by LPD's Crime Scene Unit. Two dogs were also found by LFD outside of the home, uninjured. They are in the custody of neighbors at the time of this media release.

Responding units included E71, E21, E41, R22, BC1, Car 7, Car 9, Polk County EMS Units, and the LPD Crime Scene Unit.

This is the first fire related fatality in the Lakeland Fire Department's response area since late 2012. Updates on the fire investigation will be provided by LFD when they become available.

Photos taken on scene are available at www.facebook.com/LakelandFD and at LFD's Twitter Page @LakelandFD

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Gary Ballard, Fire Chief

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