



LAKELAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lakeland Firefighters Battle Two Blazes Within Hour and a Half Timeframe

Lakeland, FL - June 7, 2015 was a notable day for the Lakeland Fire Department. Its Firefighters were called on to fight two fully engulfed fires at residential locations in Lakeland within an hour and a half of each other.

Fire at Abandoned Home

At 2:47 PM, the Lakeland Fire Department received calls reporting an abandoned home at 1045 Marion Ave on fire. By 2:50 PM the first unit, Rescue 42, arrived to encounter a fully engulfed structure. They began an aggressive defensive attack due to the advanced progression of the fire. The home was unoccupied. No injuries were reported during the event. The cause of the fire is currently under investigation. Responding units were Battalion Chief 2, Engine 11, Engine 12, Rescue 42, Engine 31, and Tower 15.

Cooking Fire Destroys Mobile Home, Kills 9 Cats

At 4:27 PM, the Lakeland Fire Department received calls reporting a fire at 1331 Oakhill Street. Battalion Chief 1 arrived with a full complement including Engine 11, Engine 12, Engine 21, Engine 41, Rescue 22, Tower 15, and Truck 73. Several of these units responded to this event directly from the previous structure fire at 1045 Marion Ave.

At arrival the mobile home was fully engulfed by fire and the fire was rapidly spreading, creating a threat to the neighboring mobile home units, which were in close proximity to the unit on fire. Firefighters were able to aggressively attack the fire upon arriving, stopping any threat of adjacent units becoming damaged as a result. The home was occupied by two elderly residents, who were able to escape the home and avoid any bodily injury. The home was occupied by several pets and although no person was injured, nine cats perished in the fire, and were removed by Firefighters during overhaul operations. The fire was caused by cooking oil on the stovetop and serves as a sobering reminder that cooking fires are the leading cause of fires in Lakeland, and the nation. They are responsible for nearly half of all home fires. For more information about how to prevent cooking fires visit: <http://www.lakelandgov.net/lfd/fire-safety>

The American Red Cross (ARC) was called in to assist the residents, as the home is a complete loss. ARC is providing humanitarian support for the occupants of the home.

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Gary Ballard, Fire Chief

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