



LAKELAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: March 2, 2014

Contact: Janel Vasallo, Public Education / Information Officer

Telephone: (863) 860-9011

Fax: (863) 834-8222

Email: janel.vasallo@lakelandgov.net

Lakeland Man Injured After Smoking While Using Medical Oxygen

Lakeland --- At 1:32 PM, Sunday, March 2, 2014, the Lakeland Fire Department (LFD) responded to a medical call for a 57 year old male that sustained possibly life threatening burns to his face and hands.

The event took place at the Lakeland Presbyterian Apartments located at 530 S. Florida Ave, an independent living facility for senior residents. Investigation of the incident found that the male subject was utilizing home medical oxygen while smoking which created a flash fire near the patients face, leading to the sustained injuries.

The victim was transported by ground ambulance by Polk County Fire Rescue (PCFR) to a landing zone established by LFD at a field near the Lakeland Center off of Lime Street. The victim was flown by medical helicopter to Tampa General for treatment (photo of landing area attached).

No fire damage was sustained to the patient's apartment and the incident did not require evacuation of any other residents.

This unfortunate incident is a good opportunity to remind people to keep open flames away from medical gases, like medical oxygen, and any other flammable gases.

A total of 2 LFD Engines and 1 LFD Battalion Chief responded, along with PCFR transport for the patient.

~ END ~

Gary Ballard, Fire Chief

701 E. Main Street Lakeland, FL 33801 | Phone (863)834-8200 | Fax (863)834-8295

WWW.LAKELANDGOV.NET/LFD