



LAKELAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date:

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Structure Fire 810 E Bella Vista St, Fatality and Multiple Injuries

Lakeland, FL –

The Lakeland Fire Department received an automatic fire alarm at 4:34 AM this morning from Bella Vista Manor, a five-story, independent living facility located at 810 East Bella Vista Street. Units arrived minutes later to find heavy fire showing from the fourth floor windows. The facility contains 48 individual rooms, and was occupied by a total of 41 residents at the time of the fire.

Lakeland firefighters, along with the assistance from the Lakeland Police Department, evacuated the entire building as the flames were extinguished. A second alarm was called due to the complexity of the incident. During initial searches of the fourth floor, a deceased victim was found. The scene is actively being investigated at this time by both departments. Additionally, two patients were transported for smoke inhalation symptoms from the scene by Polk County Fire Rescue. The identity of the deceased victim is being withheld pending identification and notification of family. Currently, all residents have been evacuated from the building and are being sheltered in place in an adjoining building. The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

Units on scene of the incident included: Engine 31, Engine 61, Engine 11, Engine 41, Tower 15, Rescue 32, Rescue 62, BC2, and four Polk County fire Rescue Medic Units.

Gary Ballard, Fire Chief

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