



# LAKELAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

## Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Kitchen Fire Displaces Two, Injures One

At approximately 6:20 PM, October 27, 2014 the Lakeland Fire Department (LFD) responded to a structure fire at 4819 Plymouth Lane. The fire originated in the kitchen due to unattended cooking. In the residence at the time of the fire were two elderly residents as well as their caretaker who is not related to the residents. The caretaker was outside of the residence working in the yard when the fire broke out. Upon noticing the smoke, the caretaker entered to evacuate the elderly residents. She did so successfully but returned twice more after removing the residents to recover a cell phone and pet dog. In the process, the caretaker suffered from smoke inhalation severe enough to require medical attention. She was transported by Polk County EMS to Tampa General Hospital. Her condition is unknown at the time of this release.

This very unfortunate event serves as a tragic but important reminder that residents should:

- Never leave cooking unattended
- Never reenter a home for pets. LFD's Firefighters are trained to assist not only humans but pets too. Firefighters will do their best to rescue pets upon arrival. LFD understands that pets play an important role in our lives and are part of the family; however residents should never put their lives in jeopardy to rescue them. Leave that work to our professional firefighters.
- Never reenter a burning structure for material items. Items like phones can easily be replaced.

This kitchen fire is another in a recent rash of kitchen fires in Lakeland. Kitchen fires are the leading cause of home fires in the United States (and Lakeland) and the third leading cause of fire fatality. This unfortunate event will hopefully serve as a reminder to other residents on the importance of fire safety in the home. Fire safety information, particularly information in regards to kitchen fire safety, is available at <http://www.lakelandgov.net/lfd/FireSafety.aspx>.

The two residents of the home were evacuated safely thanks to their caretaker but were displaced due to the damage from the fire. They are being assisted by Red Cross of Mid Florida.

5 Apparatus and 14 emergency response personnel responded.

- END -

Gary Ballard, Fire Chief

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