



LAKELAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Trapped Motorist on Interstate-4 Freed by Lakeland Firefighters

Lakeland --- Early Thursday, August 22, 2013, at approximately 7:00 AM, the Lakeland Fire Department (LFD) responded to an accident involving two vehicles on the east bound lanes of I-4 at 3800 I-4, Lakeland, FL, 33809.

Upon arrival, emergency responders found a mini-van and 4-door compact car that had collided. All of the occupants of the mini-van had successfully exited the vehicle prior to the arrival of LFD responders, but the male driver of the compact car was trapped due to heavy front end damage to his vehicle.

LFD personnel immediately initiated medical treatment upon arrival, and with the assistance of Polk County Fire Rescue (PCFR), closed all east bound lanes of I-4 to proceed with extrication of the victim. Tower Truck 15 and Fire Engine 61 arrived on scene to stabilize the vehicle and perform the extrication. Due to the condition of the vehicle, two hydraulic rescue tools (commonly known as the "Jaws of Life") had to be used to remove the vehicle's roof and the driver's side door to successfully free the man. He was then ground transported to an area hospital by PCFR.

The Lakeland Fire Department responded with 5 apparatuses and 11 personnel.

If any further information is needed contact Janel Vasallo.

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Fire Chief Gary Ballard

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