



LAKELAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Monday, March 5, 2018

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Lakeland Fire Department Welcomes Five New Firefighters

Lakeland, FL - The Lakeland Fire Department (LFD) is pleased to announce the hiring of five new firefighters that began duty on Monday, March 5, 2018. The new hires are filling vacancies created as a result of recent retirements and internal promotions.

The new firefighters began with the department's month-long orientation program at the Lakeland Fire Department's Training Center located at 901 Granada Street. Although all the new hires are certified firefighters, this training course is designed to teach the new firefighters how to do things the "Lakeland" way. They will review a full spectrum of practical skills they need to perform on the job as well as emergency medical training before being released into the field.

"Our hiring committee is confident that it selected the best available candidates and it's comforting to know that the new firefighters joining our ranks are highly skilled and qualified to continue providing the high quality emergency services our department is known for," said Training Chief John Almskog, coordinator of the hiring effort and leader of the department's four-week orientation program.

The department strives to have a workforce that is representative of the community it serves. Of the five new hires, two are Hispanic firefighters. Of the new hires, one is already certified as a paramedic while the others are Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs).

The new hires bring the department to a total of 171 personnel whom, last year alone, responded to over 25,500 calls for service.

For more information, interview requests with department representatives, filming at the training site, etc. please contact Janel Vasallo.

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Gary Ballard, Fire Chief

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