



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Thursday, May 23, 2019

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Family of Three Suffers from Smoke Inhalation After Structure Fire

Lakeland, FL – The Lakeland Fire Department (LFD) responded to a structure fire at 2703 Handley Blvd, at approximately 4:40 AM, on Thursday, May 23, 2019. Upon arriving, firefighters discovered smoke coming from a bedroom located in the back of the home. Crews entered, quickly extinguishing the fire. No occupants were discovered at the time of entry, as the residents of the home had self-evacuated. Upon making contact with the family, LFD emergency responders assessed the patients and determined that all three residents had suffered from smoke inhalation. The family, consisting of one adult woman, and two children, aged six and seven respectively, were transported to Tampa General Hospital by Polk County Fire Rescue.

LFD Fire Investigators determined the origin and cause of the fire; it was deemed accidental and was the result of a child playing with a toaster. The home has significant smoke damage, which has rendered the home uninhabitable. The Mid-Florida Chapter of the American Red Cross has been contacted to provide assistance to the family.

The home did not have working smoke alarms, which serves as an unfortunate yet sobering reminder of the important role that smoke alarms play in keeping residents safe. Working smoke alarms save lives by providing advanced warning of harmful smoke caused by fires, creating awareness for a safe evacuation from the home. The Lakeland Fire Department offers more information about smoke alarms and offers complimentary smoke alarms to those who cannot afford them within the department's service area. For more information, please visit <http://www.lakelandgov.net/lfd>.

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