



FIRE & RESCUE

CITY OF CLEARWATER

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RELEASE 11-082

July 23, 2011

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CLEARWATER INVESTIGATES CONDOMINIUM FIRE

WHO: Multiple Residents

WHAT: Residential Structure Fire

WHEN: July 23, 2011
2:39 a.m.

WHERE: Inverness Condominiums – Building #8
2595 Countryside Boulevard
Clearwater, Fla.

SUMMARY: Clearwater Fire & Rescue responded to a structure fire at Inverness Condominiums at 2595 Countryside Boulevard, building #8. The call came in at 2:39 am and firefighters arrived in less than two minutes and immediately began fire and rescue operations. Heavy smoke and flames were shooting from the building upon arrival. Several people were trapped on the third floor. Firefighters rescued five (5) people from windows and balconies with ground ladders. Firefighters also rescued one cat.

Five adults were transported to various local hospitals for smoke inhalation. None of the injuries were life-threatening. There were no firefighter injuries.

The fire was brought under control at 6:00 am although firefighters continued to work on hot spots for the next two hours. The structure will be monitored throughout the day for flare ups, which is common with large fires.





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Half of the building sustained heavy fire damage with portions of the roof completely gone. Firefighters were able to stop the fire from spreading to the other half of the building at a stairwell located in the middle. Although that portion did not sustain fire damage, it did have a significant amount of smoke and water damage. At least 30 people are displaced and the Red Cross is assisting in them with temporary living arrangements. The building is uninhabitable.

Fire Investigators determined the cause of the fire was an electrical malfunction which appears to have occurred in a third floor unit.

Nearly 30 fire apparatus with as many as 100 firefighters responded from Clearwater, Safety Harbor, Dunedin, Largo, Oldsmar and Tarpon Springs.

Photos:





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