



Marion County Board of County Commissioners

Fire Rescue

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EARLY MORNING BLAZE LEAVES ONE DEAD IN SUMMERFIELD

Immediate Release

MARION COUNTY, Fla. (May 17, 2011) – Marion County Fire Rescue firefighters from five stations responded to a structure fire at 9551 161st Street at 12:02 a.m. Wednesday.

Arriving six minutes later, emergency crews from The Villages Station 10 found a doublewide mobile home fully involved with heavy smoke and flames. MCFR firefighters immediately began to extinguish the blaze and search for any victims inside the home. At 12:17 a.m., crews found a deceased male, 53, within the residence. Altogether, first responders used more than 6,000 gallons of water to extinguish this blaze.

The State Fire Marshal's Office is investigating the cause of the fire and the Medical Examiner will perform an autopsy to identify the victim. Although it is unknown whether or not the home had working smoke alarms, MCFR urges citizens to equip their homes with the lifesaving technology and to heed these safety tips:

- Install smoke alarms in every sleeping area of the home, as well as in common areas such as living rooms and hallways.
- Test smoke alarms monthly.
- Change the batteries in smoke alarms at least twice year: *Change Your Clocks; Change Your Batteries.*
- Create a fire escape plan, identifying two exits from each room and a safe meeting place outside.
- Practice the escape plan with all family members at least twice a year.
- Call 911 immediately and from outside the burning building.
- Never go back inside a burning building for any reason.

Marion County Fire Rescue's "Get Alarmed" Smoke Alarm Program provides and installs one free dual-mode smoke alarm for homeowners of Marion County who cannot otherwise afford them. For more information on this program call MCFR Headquarters at 352-291-8000.

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"Meeting Needs by Exceeding Expectations"