



## Marion County Board of County Commissioners Marion County Fire Rescue

2631 SE 3rd Street  
Ocala, FL 34471

[www.marioncountyfl.org/firerescue.htm](http://www.marioncountyfl.org/firerescue.htm)



Contact: Miranda Iglesias, Public Information Officer, Marion County Fire Rescue  
Cell: (352) 572-5191 ▪ Pager: (352) 898-3570 ▪ [miranda.iglesias@marioncountyfl.org](mailto:miranda.iglesias@marioncountyfl.org)

### **MARION COUNTY FIRE RESCUE RESPONDS TO MULTIPLE FATALITY STRUCTURE FIRE**

Immediate Release

**MARION COUNTY, Fla.**(Nov. 21, 2009)—Marion County Fire Rescue firefighters from six stations responded to a structure fire at 11290 N.W. 20th Street at 6:46 a.m. after a caller on a cell phone alerted MCFR to the incident. When crews arrived on-scene less than six minutes later at 6:52 a.m., the single-wide mobile home was fully engulfed in flames and the roof had collapsed. The fire was called under control at 7:20 a.m.

There were five confirmed fire fatalities; however, the victims' ages and genders have not been released. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

The Florida State Fire Marshal's Office is the lead investigating agency.

This incident accounts for Marion County's highest number of fatalities encountered in a single structure fire over the last two decades.

While experiencing a fire anytime is dangerous, it is especially devastating at night because that's when most people are asleep and less aware of their surroundings. That's why it's important for all families to establish a fire escape plan and install dual-mode smoke alarms inside every sleeping area as well as common areas such as a living room or hallway. MCFR will provide and install smoke alarms free of charge for citizens who cannot afford them. For more information, call (352) 291-8000 or click on [www.marioncountyfl.org/firerescue.htm](http://www.marioncountyfl.org/firerescue.htm).

MCFR firefighters also encourage citizens to take the following safety precautions:

- Replace smoke alarm batteries at least twice a year when the time changes or when the low battery alarm chirps.
- Never "borrow" a battery from your smoke alarms because you will likely forget to replace it.
- Test and inspect each smoke alarm at least once a month to make sure it's working properly.
- Create a fire escape plan and practice it at least twice a year, identifying two exits from every room and establishing a safe meeting place outside.

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