

Press Release

LAKE CITY
POLICE
DEPARTMENT



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Chief of Police Gerald Butler

For Immediate Release

August 27, 2025

Greg Burnsed, Public Information Officer

Ph. (386) 247-1148

Structure fire displaces residents at Cedar Park Apartments

On Wednesday, August 27, 2025, at approximately 2:21 A.M., officers from the Lake City Police Department were dispatched to Cedar Park Apartments, building 399, in reference to a structure fire.

Upon arrival, officers observed flames billowing from apartment 206, which was fully engulfed. Officers immediately began evacuating residents from the building to ensure their safety.

Once all tenants were safely evacuated, officers contacted the property manager, who responded to the scene. A tenant roster was obtained, and officers accounted for all residents assigned to building 399. The American Red Cross was notified and responded to provide assistance for the approximately 50 displaced residents.

At the request of the Lake City Fire Department, the State Fire Marshal's Office was notified, and CID detectives responded to the scene to assist. Officers also spoke with the resident of apartment 206, who stated she believed the fire may have started after she had been cooking on the stove and left the apartment briefly.

The Columbia County Sheriff's Office, Columbia County Fire Rescue Department, and Columbia County Emergency Medical Services assisted with the fire response and evacuation efforts.

No fire-related injuries have been reported at this time. Officers remained on scene to assist the Lake City Fire Department with maintaining scene integrity and security while the investigation continues.

"This was a very dangerous situation where quick actions by responding officers and firefighters prevented any loss of life," stated Chief of Police Gerald Butler. "We are thankful that no one was injured, and our department will continue to support our community members who have been displaced."

Anyone with information on this or any other crimes is urged to contact the Lake City Police Department at (386) 752-4343. You may also report information anonymously by calling the LCPD TIPS line at (386) 719-2068 or Crime Stoppers of Columbia County at (386) 754-7099.



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