

“For Immediate Release”



Auburndale Police Department News Release

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AUBURNDALE WOMAN SEVERELY BURNED IN FIREWORKS ACCIDENT

On Friday, July 4, 2014, at approximately 8:51 p.m., Auburndale Police officers responded to assist the Auburndale Fire Department and Polk County Fire Rescue at a reported fire at 226 Eaker Street, Auburndale, Florida. Initial reports indicated that two people were injured when fireworks exploded inside the home.

The initial investigation was turned over to Detective Kristi Bellendier, who conducted a follow-up investigation of the incident. Detective Bellendier was able to determine the following:

A family get-together was going on at the home noted above and a number of people were in attendance. Kathryn Flint, W/F, 06/05/1965, of that address went inside the home to ready multiple large fireworks (mortars) that had previously been placed on top of a bed in a bedroom, and was going to take them outside to set them off. At about 8:40 p.m., while she was inside the bedroom with two dogs also present, there was an apparent accidental ignition of at least one mortar. When that mortar exploded, it set off others inside the bedroom, resulting in the ignition of multiple other mortars. Those fireworks were all set off, causing multiple explosions inside the room and a resulting fire.

Upon hearing the commotion, Flint's son, Christopher Flint, W/M, 07/22/1988, of 3815 Avenue R NW, Winter Haven, went to the room to help his mother. According to Detective Bellendier's investigation, Christopher Flint went to a bedroom window, removed an air conditioner, and was able to remove his mother from the room, which was burning.

The explosions and fire severely burned Kathryn Flint and burned Christopher Flint as well. One dog was killed in the incident and another was burned and removed for further care by an officer of the Polk County Sheriff's Office Animal Control Section.

Kathryn Flint was flown by medical helicopter to Orlando Regional Medical Center for treatment of severe burns. Christopher Flint was transported by ambulance to Lakeland Regional Medical Center. Kathryn is listed in critical condition at this time.

Detective Bellendier's investigation into the exact circumstances of the event is ongoing as she attempts to determine what caused the initial ignition of the fireworks.

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