

Okaloosa County News Release

EMS Rescues Cat Following Apartment Fire *Luckily Only a Cat Was Injured*

Okaloosa County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) resuscitated a small cat that had smoke inhalation after a recent neighborhood fire. No other injuries occurred at the Smitty Apartments fire in Valparaiso, although several residents were displaced temporarily. EMS and the Valparaiso Volunteer Fire Department responded to the fire Saturday, March 5.

Recently, EMS Captain Joe Moffitt learned about the pet oxygen masks program and training and suggested Okaloosa EMS adopt it. The equipment was provided free, along with a training supplement. “It was simply an opportunity to provide the equipment on the ambulance, and assist pets if the need arose,” stated EMS Chief Al Herndon. EMS Tech Shandy Durko administered the oxygen to the cat at the scene.

Emergency medical service teams consist of emergency physicians, emergency nurses, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, firefighters, educators, administrators and others. For more information, contact Okaloosa County Public Safety, 850-651-7150.

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