



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Pasco County Fire Rescue to help protect neighbors of tragic fire**

*~~Smoke alarms will be provided through joint effort with the American Red Cross~~*

**PASCO COUNTY, FL** ---- [Pasco County Fire Rescue](#), in partnership with the [American Red Cross](#), will be installing free smoke alarms on **Saturday, August 26, 2017** in the Port Richey neighborhood where a two-alarm fire earlier this week seriously injured a man and killed more than a dozen dogs.

Through this joint effort, the volunteers will meet and install the smoke alarms from **9:00 a.m. to noon** on Saturday, August 26, 2017. Volunteers will meet at **8705 Velvet Drive in Port Richey** and will go door-to-door in the immediate neighborhood, installing free smoke detectors for any residents who need them, while supplies last.

“Sunday’s generator explosion and resulting fire should be a warning to us all,” said Pasco County Fire Rescue Division Chief Shawn Whited. “Every home needs to have working smoke alarms and we’re proud to be partnering with the Red Cross to protect our neighbors in Pasco County.”

Pasco County Fire Rescue responded to 8705 and 8711 Velvet Drive in Port Richey on Sunday, August 20, 2017 to find both homes in flames following a generator explosion. One man suffered burns to over 40-percent of his body. Fire Rescue crews were able to rescue three dogs from the smoke and flames; however, 13 dogs did not survive. Both homes were destroyed and the Red Cross is helping the victims.

Pasco County Fire Rescue and the American Red Cross want to remind everyone of the importance of having at least one working smoke alarm. A working smoke alarm is recommended inside and outside every bedroom and on every level of the home.

Pasco County residents who don’t have a smoke alarm can request a free alarm through [The American Red Cross Home Fire Campaign](#). Just visit [www.soundthealarm.org/centralflorida](http://www.soundthealarm.org/centralflorida) and click on the *Request a Smoke Alarm Here* link.

*For more information about Pasco County Fire Rescue and fire prevention, click on the following link: [www.pascocountyfl.net/firerescue](http://www.pascocountyfl.net/firerescue).*

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