



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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### Media Release

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**From:** Michael Terry  
Deputy PIO, 352-797-3608

**Re:** HCSO Deputies Save Disabled Woman from Inside of Burning Home

**Date:** May 13, 2021

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On 05-13-2021 at 1:59 a.m., Hernando County Sheriff's deputies responded to 800 block of St. Francis Street in Brooksville in reference to a report of a residential fire.

The homeowner, a 63-year-old paralyzed female, called 9-1-1 to report her oxygen hose caught on fire while she was smoking in her bed and her bedroom was now on fire.

The woman further advised she was home alone, was burnt by the fire, and was trapped in her bedroom.

Four deputies (K. Keiper, D. Hadsell, M. Beebe, and E. Croan) arrived on scene and rushed into the burning home to locate the elderly woman.

Deputies quickly located the woman in her bedroom, which was actively on fire. Deputies Keiper, Hadsell, and Beebe lifted her out of her bed and carried her into the living room.

Deputies Beebe and Croan then proceeded to carry the woman out of the home and place her in a wheelchair a safe distance from the burning home.

Deputies were also able to save two dogs who were also trapped in the burning home.

Hernando County Fire Rescue and Emergency Services arrived on scene within a few minutes to extinguish the fire and tend to the injured woman who sustained severe burns to both arms and legs.

A family member also arrived on scene to tend to the injured woman and her two dogs.

None of the deputies who entered the burning home sustained injuries.

The woman was transported to an area hospital for treatment of her injuries.

**The Office of Sheriff:**

**The Office of the Sheriff is established by the Florida Constitution. As a constitutional officer, the Sheriff has the exclusive authority to administer his or her agency and is responsible for preserving the peace throughout the entire county, carrying out the laws of the state, the orders of Florida courts, and the ordinances of the Board of County Commissioners. The Sheriff is the chief law enforcement and correctional officer of the county.**

**Sheriff Al Nienhuis was initially appointed as the Sheriff of Hernando County by the Governor in January of 2011. He was then elected by the people of Hernando County in 2012, ran unopposed in 2016, and was re-elected in 2020. Sheriff Nienhuis remains accountable to the people of Hernando County.**