City of Hollywood, Florida
Hollywood Police Department

Email or text tips to Hollywoodpdtips@hollywoodfl.org

September 13, 2017
Public Records Media Release No. PD 09-13-17

MEDIA RELEASE   *FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

Death Investigation Update #1

Date: September 13, 2017 Update as of 5:30 p.m.
Location: 1200 N. 35th Avenue, Hollywood, Florida

Hollywood, FL – Eight patients from the Hollywood Hills Rehabilitation Center at 1200 N. 35th Avenue in Hollywood, Florida are now confirmed dead. One of the patients died last night at the facility and was taken away by a funeral home.

Information on Deceased:

1. W/F, age 78
2. W/F, age 71
3. B/F, age 71
4. B/M, age 84
5. W/M age 92
6. W/M age 96
7. W/F, age 99
8. W/F, age 84

Based on conditions inside the facility, the City of Hollywood Fire Rescue Department and Hollywood Police Department, with assistance from Memorial Healthcare System, initiated the complete evacuation of the facility this morning with 158 patients of the facility evacuated to area hospitals including Memorial Regional Hospital, Memorial Regional Hospital South, Memorial Hospital West, Memorial Hospital Pembroke, Memorial Hospital Miramar, Cleveland Clinic, Broward Health and Aventura Hospital.

At 3:00 a.m. on September 13, 2017, Hollywood Fire Rescue crews responded to a call for a patient reported to be in cardiac arrest at the facility. The patient was transported to Memorial Regional Hospital. Firefighters were called back to the facility at 4:00 a.m. to transport a patient reported to be experiencing breathing problems. After the second call was completed, the Fire Lieutenant notified a Battalion Chief and called the Department of Children and Families to report concerns about the facility. Shortly thereafter, a third call for patient transport came in. Additional Fire Rescue crews were dispatched and began going through the facility. Memorial clinical staff also responded to the facility. A total of three patients were found deceased on the 2nd floor of the facility and several other patients in varying degrees

of medical distress were transported. Additional rescue units were called in and the complete evacuation of the facility was ordered.

As of 9:15 a.m. all patients from the Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills had been removed from the center and were being triaged by paramedics and emergency medical staff from Memorial Regional Hospital.

A second adjoining facility, Larkin Community Hospital Behavioral Health Services, relocated 18 additional patients. These are not medically compromised patients, but due to the condition of the adjacent facility were required to be evacuated.

The Hollywood Police Department is currently conducting a criminal investigation into this situation to determine the circumstances that led to the patient deaths. State investigators from the Florida Office of the Attorney General and the Agency for Health Care Administration have also been on scene. The initial investigation has determined that the facility's air conditioning system was not fully functional. Portable A/C units were being used in the facility, but the facility was excessively hot.

Additionally, Hollywood Police officers conducted welfare checks on 42 Nursing Homes, Assisted Living and Critical Care facilities located in the City throughout the day. As a result of those checks, Fire Rescue crews responded to the Amazing Care, Inc. assisted living facility and transported 4 patients in their seventies as a precautionary measure to Memorial Regional Hospital for observation.

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