

## **Guest causes accidental fire at local hotel**

By: Lauren Johnson

The Gainesville Fire Rescue Department responded to a fire at a local hotel Wednesday morning.

GFR received a call from hotel guest, Chelsea Fenton, at 8:15 a.m. reporting a fire at 3600 SW 42<sup>nd</sup> St., the Extended Stay America, said Peggy Cabrera, spokeswoman for the Gainesville Fire Rescue Department.

Smoke detectors worked throughout the hotel, and everyone was safely evacuated from the building, Cabrera said. GFR used foam extinguishers to put out the fire.

The fire started in a room furnished with a full kitchen, Cabrera said. Fenton told GFR that she was frying plantains in a skillet on the stove when grease splashed on her hand, burning her. She accidentally knocked the pan of hot oil onto the floor and carpet, which caused the carpet to ignite, and fire spread across a large part of the carpet.

No other rooms were damaged, and guests were allowed back in the hotel about 45 minutes after the fire was extinguished, Cabrera said. Guests staying on the floor where the fire occurred will be relocated to other rooms due to fumes from burning carpet.

“At this time I cannot comment on anything else concerning the ongoing investigation.” Cabrera said, “All I can say is that people need to be careful when cooking in a small space especially when cooking with hot grease.”