
Gallatin National Forest News Release



For Immediate Release
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Madison Arm Fire Entraps and Burns Over 9 Firefighters During Initial Attack

West Yellowstone, MT... Nine firefighters were entrapped and burned over during initial attack of the Madison Arm fire on Wednesday, June 27th, 2007. There were no injuries.

During initial attack of the Madison Arm fire, two Forest Service engines, a support vehicle, and a contract bulldozer on a trailer were entrapped by an advancing flame front. The crews and contractor were able to burn out a small area to provide a buffer from the front of the fire and survived the burn-over in their vehicles.

The Northern Region's Regional Forester has appointed a team of regional personnel which has conducted an accident prevention analysis, a process focused on capturing lessons that can help keep firefighters safe. This report is expected to be complete sometime in August.

"During the last decade, fire conditions across the northern Rockies have become increasingly severe as drought conditions persist," said Marna Daley, Gallatin National Forest Public Affairs Officer. "Training for firefighters has focused on increased awareness of fire behavior and situational awareness to help prepare them for the extreme conditions we are experiencing. This training, and the experiences and good judgment of these firefighters served them well when faced with this very serious and life threatening situation."

Fire conditions in some areas of the Forest are more severe than those experienced last summer. Stage 1 fire restrictions remain in effect for all areas of the Gallatin National Forest outside the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness and Spanish Peaks portion of the Lee Metcalf Wilderness. Stage 2 fire restrictions are in effect for the entire Hebgen Lake Ranger District. For additional fire restriction information please contact a Gallatin National Forest office or visit our website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin/>.

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