



**File Code:** 6730

**Date:** July 1, 2007

**Route To:**

**Subject:** Expanded Briefing – Moon Lake Road Rollover Accident (June 27, 2007)

**To:** Regional Forester – Intermountain Region

**THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

Summary

On June 27, 2007, a Forest Service Type 4 engine was involved in a single vehicle rollover accident after leaving a small wildfire on the Duchesne Ranger District of the Ashley National Forest. The driver and passenger sustained serious injuries in the accident and are hospitalized in Salt Lake City, Utah. A Serious Accident Investigation Team (SAIT) has visited the accident site and has interviewed crew members and collected pertinent records. The team is waiting until the victims' medical conditions improve before interviewing them.

Preliminary Details

At approximately 2:30 PM, a five-person squad of firefighters in three different vehicles, departed a small wildfire near Moon Lake traveling south back to the District Office in Duchesne, Utah. The lead vehicle, Engine 431, carried only the driver and a single passenger.

About four miles north of Mountain Home the driver of Engine 431 lost control while negotiating a curve on a paved county road. The vehicle rolled but remained on the road, coming to rest on its top. Occupants in the trailing vehicles reported seeing the engine disappear around the corner and then encountering a cloud of dust as they entered the curve and parked. Both the driver and the single passenger in Engine 431 were restrained during the accidents by their seat belts. Other crew members immediately contacted the Uintah Basin Interagency Fire Center, who contacted local emergency responders. Fire crew members helped the passenger exit the vehicle soon after the accident, while emergency responders later extricated the driver.

The driver was flown by helicopter to the University of Utah Hospital in Salt Lake City directly from the accident. The passenger was initially transported by ambulance, but was later also flown to the University of Utah. Both remain hospitalized.

In addition to the SAIT, Utah Highway Patrol officers responded shortly after the accident and completed an investigation and report. Weather and road conditions were good at the time of the accident. The small wildfire was the first fire assignment of the season for the crew.

/s/ Loren M. Kroenke – SAIT Leader

cc: Randy Draeger – R4 Safety Manager

