



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Region One

200 East Broadway
P.O. Box 7669
Missoula, MT 59807

File Code: 6730

Date: July 3, 2007

Route To:

Subject: Expanded (72-hour) Briefing
Madison Arm Fire Entrapment, Gallatin National Forest, Region 1
June 27, 2007

To: Regional Forester, Region 1

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Preliminary factual findings:

At approximately 1730 on Wednesday, June 27, 2007, two Forest Service engines, a chase vehicle, a contract dozer on a trailer and nine individuals were entrapped by a wildland fire. The firefighters got in their vehicles and waited for the fire to pass. There were no injuries and no vehicle damage.

Narrative:

Early on the afternoon of June 27, 2007, the fire had been sized up at less than five acres. The IC at the time was the initial attack engine captain. Later in the afternoon, after the fire had grown in size and complexity, a type III IC assumed command. Around 1700, resources were directed to the Madison Arm Resort for a briefing. Shortly after the briefing the involved resources were on the Madison Arm Road. They discovered their route to the east was compromised by the fire front. They decided to disengage and escape the fire front by traveling west on the Madison Arm Road only to find that escape route blocked as well. Recognizing that they were in an entrapment situation, they located an area with fine fuels and began a burnout operation. The operation lasted only a matter of minutes before the flame front arrived and they were forced into the vehicles. The crews waited as flame and embers passed over the vehicles filling the cabs with smoke. No injuries were sustained and no damage occurred to the vehicles.

On June 28, 2007, an Accident Prevention Analysis Team was formed and is currently conducting a comprehensive review of the incident.

/s/ Eric Johnston

ERIC JOHNSTON

Accident Prevention Analysis Team Leader

Cc: R-1 Regional Safety Manager

R-1 Assistant Director, FAM



