



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington
Office

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Date: October 2, 2009

Subject: Expanded Briefing (72 Hour Report)

To: Joe Stringer, Acting Forest Supervisor, Coconino National Forest

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AN SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Location: Coconino National Forest, Peaks Ranger District

Date of occurrence: September 22,2009

Time of occurrence: 0940 Hours

Investigative Team Leader: Jerry Ingersoll

Project: Woody Ridge Prescribed Fire

Activity: Prescribed fire 650 acres

Number injured: 2

Extent of Injury: Smoke inhalation and upper-airway injuries

Narrative: On September 22, 2009 the Peaks Ranger District planned and implemented the Woody Ridge prescribed burn which was 650 acres. Ignition on the project began around 0930. A spot weather forecast requested at 0812 indicated Northeast winds with 20 ft windspeeds 10-13 mph with gusts to around 30 mph. At 0940 shortly after starting ignitions the West firing group began to experience spots across the line and the lead lighters responded, notifying other personnel. All ignitions on the West side stopped and engines also responded to the spot fires. There was heavy smoke and strong winds which made size up and access difficult to the spot fires. The lead lighters responding to the spots had to pull back into the black while engaging the spot due to smoke and heat. These two individuals sustained heavy smoke and heat during this time. All available resources then re-engaged the spot fires. The two individuals who were in the black were sent back to their vehicle because they did not feel well. At 1100 it was determined that the two individuals needed further medical attention and they were transported to the Flagstaff Medical Center.

Both individuals were treated at Flagstaff Medical Center, and held for observation until late afternoon. The Burn Injury Criteria from the Interagency Standards for Fire Operations was communicated to the Hospital staff and agency representatives remained with the individuals until the determination was made that they did not need a referral by the attending physician. The individuals are continuing medical follow-up.

An After Action Review (AAR) has been completed and an Accident Prevention Analysis (APA) team has been assigned and is in the process of reviewing the incident.

/S/ Jerry Ingersoll, APA Team Leader
Deputy Forest Supervisor, Humboldt- Toiyabe National Forest