



TO :

FROM : National Wildfire Coordinating Group

REPLY TO : NWCG@nifc.gov

DATE : 09/17/2007

SUBJECT : SAFETY BULLETIN : Cascade Complex Combined 24 and 72 hour reports

Attached is the combined 24 and 72 hour report regarding events that occurred on the Cascade Complex. Please see that it receives wide distribution within your agency. An Accident Prevention Analysis is currently being conducted to review these events and derive lessons learned. When available, other analysis documents, specifically the final Report, will be posted on the Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center database for reviews, analyses and investigations (<http://www.wildfirelessons.net/Reviews.aspx>).



24-72 Cascade.doc



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Intermountain Region

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Ogden, UT 84401
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File Code: 6730
Route To:

Date: September 14, 2007

Subject: Preliminary Briefing (Combined 24 & 72 Hour Reports)
Cascade Complex Wildland Fire
Boise National Forest

To: Chief of the Forest Service

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE:

Critical Information:

On the afternoon of August 12th 2007, two individuals funded through a wildland fire resource order were moving roll-on garbage dumpsters from a spike camp. The couple was involved in a motor vehicle accident within the closure area of the Cascade Wildland Fire Complex. The accident disabled their vehicle and apparently resulted in non-life threatening injuries to both occupants. Following the accident the individuals left their vehicle and began hiking towards the Cascade Complex Incident Command Post. During or shortly before this time, the road they were on was closed due to fire activity. While hiking along the closed road, the individuals were overrun by the wildland fire. The individuals took shelter from the fire in or near a culvert. It does not appear that either individual was injured by the fire. Several hours later the couple was discovered along the same road by other contractors who then transported them out of the fire area. The couple was then given first aid by firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians and then transported to the Cascade Wildland Fire Complex incident command post. They were subsequently transported to local hospitals, one by air ambulance and the other by ground ambulance. Both were treated and released within 24 to 48 hours.

For reasons unknown at this time, the facts surrounding this entrapment were not reported to the Washington Office until September 13, 2007.

On August 13th the Cascade Complex Incident Command Team implemented a Stay-In-Place plan as the Cascade wildland fire burned around their Incident Command Post. The Stay-In-Place plan, the decision to implement the plan and the decision to remain in place for several days following the event resulted in several unintended consequences including the fact that numerous individuals were subjected to elevated levels smoke and carbon monoxide resulting in acute respiratory symptoms and illness.

On September 14th, 2007 an Accident Prevention Analysis (APA) Team was formed based upon a verbal delegation of authority from your office to review both of these incidents. A law enforcement investigation is underway reviewing the motor vehicle accident.



/s/ Steve Holdsambeck

for Randy Draeger

Occupational Safety and Health Program Manager.

cc: Larry Sutton

Ralph Dorn