



TO :

FROM : National Wildfire Coordinating Group

REPLY TO : NWCG@nifc.gov

DATE : 04/20/2009

SUBJECT : SAFETY BULLETIN : 72 Hour Briefing on Christian Creek Incident



Christian Creek 72 Hour Briefing.doc



North Carolina
Department of Environment and
Natural Resources

Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor
Dee Freeman, Secretary



North Carolina
Division of Forest Resources

Wib L. Owen, Director

April 14, 2009

TO: Jim Prevette, Fire Chief

Subject: 72 Hour Briefing on Christian Creek Incident

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Location: Vicinity of Swanannoa, Buncombe County, North Carolina

Date of Occurrence: April 10, 2009

Preliminary Factual Findings: NCDFR fire line policy(s) and procedure(s) were being complied with at the time of the accident. Injuries sustained by personnel were reported as non-life threatening.

Narrative: On April 9, 2009 NCDFR personnel responded to the Christian Creek Fire. The fire was contained at approximately three acres. Three NCDFR personnel returned to the fire on the morning of April 10, 2009 to determine "mop-up" requirements. At approximately 0950 lightning struck the ground near the firefighters as they were patrolling the fire line. One firefighter was knocked to the ground and another reported feeling some tingling in his shoulder area. These individuals were transported to Mission Memorial Hospital, Asheville NC via EMS with non-life threatening injuries. The third was transported to same via NCDFR vehicle. All personnel were evaluated for injuries and released by 1230 on April 10, 2009.

/s/ Greg Yates; Regional Forester