



United States Department of the Interior

United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Southeast Regional Office
1875 Century Boulevard
Atlanta, Georgia 30345



24 HOUR REPORT /DRIVING ACCIDENT MERRITT ISLAND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE COMPLEX

To: John Segar, Chief of Fire Management Branch, US Fish and Wildlife Service

Subject: Preliminary (24-Hour) Report – Driving Accident

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

LOCATION: St. Johns NWR, Brevard County, FL

DATE OF OCCURRENCE: April 11, 2013

TIME OF OCCURRENCE: approximately 1500

TEAM LEADER: Pat Pearson

ACTIVITY: Area familiarization on Merritt Island NWR and St. Johns NWR

NUMBER OF INJURIES: None

NUMBER OF FATALITIES: N/A

PROPERTY DAMAGE (such as to vessels, equipment, and structures): Damage to driver's side front fender, tire and bumper area of type 6 engine.

NARRATIVE: While patrolling and doing area familiarization for crews detailed to the Complex, a National Park Service Type VI engine was following a Merritt Island Type VI engine en route to the Beeline Units of the St. Johns NWR along State Rd 407. State Rd. 407 is a two lane major highway adjacent to the Beeline Units of the St. Johns NWR. At approximately 15:00, both engines were attempting to turn left into an entrance gate along the highway. Both engines slowed and used their left turn signal. As the Merritt Island engine was turning left, a civilian vehicle passed the trailing National Park Service engine and struck the Merritt Island engine on the driver's side front fender, tire and bumper area of the engine. The driver of the Merritt Island engine said he looked in all mirrors prior to turning and never saw the civilian vehicle attempting to pass. No injuries occurred as a result of the accident.

Florida Highway Patrol and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Law Enforcement were contacted. Accident Investigations and police reports were completed and the engine was towed to the local Ford dealer.

/s/ Layne Hamilton, Project Leader, Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex

cc:

Chief, Division of Safety and Health
Accident Investigation Team Leader (for the Official Case File)
Regional Fire Management Coordinator