

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Date: 8/2/02

Location: Klink Knob Fire, Meade County SD, N44.67259, W102.28224, private land

Date of Occurrence: 8/1/02

Time of Occurrence: 1457 MDT

Mission: Wildland Fire Suppression

Number Injured: One

Number of Fatalities: None

Fuel Model: 1

Aspect: Flat

Fire Behavior: Wind driven fire working through a field of alfalfa and crested wheat grass. Flame lengths were estimated about 1 foot in height. Weather was 78 deg, RH 19, Eye level Winds 11-15 mph, NW.

Narrative: A person assisting in firefighting efforts was pitched out of the back end of a pick-up truck that had a slip-on unit installed. The victim appeared to have landed close to or into the head of the fire. The driver of the slip-on unit appeared to have exited the area back through the escape route not knowing that the victim was not on board. The victim was burned at that time and lost his eyeglasses. The victim then appeared to have walked approximately 100 yards, downwind to a fence line, and sought refuge against a burning draw full of downed hardwood trees and limbs. After receiving a second radiant heat dose from the draw, it appeared the victim walked another 100 yards and sought refuge in the unburned area, adjacent to the draw and fenceline. The victim was then discovered by other firefighters working the fire. He was then moved to another location by the firefighters and given first aid. The victim was then medivaced by helicopter to Rapid City, SD. There he was transferred to the Burn Center at Ramsey Hospital in Minneapolis/ST Paul. Victim is said to have received serious second and third degree burns over 70 percent of his body. It appears that no PPE was utilized. A CISD team has been ordered.

Submitted By:

Jim Strain, Chief FMO, State of SD, Dept of Agriculture, Div of Wildland Fire Suppression