

One-Page Summary

Acadian Firefighter Burn Injuries FLA

On May 2, 2011, the Acadian Wildland Fire is reported to the De Soto Ranger District of the National Forests in Mississippi.

Initial Attack Actions

Initial attack actions consist of firing operations from a road and catching spot fires with a dozer. Due to the number of spots, the first dozer unit on site is assigned to construct contingency lines north of the road.

While the dozer unit is constructing the contingency lines, the fire spots in several locations between the road and the first dozer/plow line. The firing and holding operations then move to the first plow line.



LEO Changes out of Uniform into PPE to Assist with Suppression Actions

At this point, the District Law Enforcement Officer (LEO) changes out of uniform into fireline PPE to assist in fire suppression activities. The LEO is assigned to patrol the second plow line with a bladder bag and suppress spot fires. Approximately 400 feet down the plow line, after engaging in suppressing a spot fire, the LEO determines that he needs assistance. As he pulls his radio out to call the dozer, the main fire “flashes” over the plow line in front of him. As the LEO moves back up the line toward his vehicle, the LEO feels the heat of the two flanking fires coming together. He looks into the green toward the dozer unit, but believes the fuels are too thick to run through. At this time, the LEO looks into the black and decides to hop over the 2- to 3-foot high flames into the black. He jumps the flames to find himself on the first plow line, which he proceeds down until it becomes too hot. At this point, the LEO makes the decision to run through the black to the road, 200 feet away. He runs to the south, weaving his way in and out of debris to the road.

LEO Treated for First Degree Burns

The LEO is cared for onsite by other firefighters until an ambulance arrives. The LEO is treated for first degree burns to his hands and a quarter-size second-degree burn on his right elbow.

Some of the Lessons from Participants

- When you are working spot fires, wear all your PPE. Gloves can protect hands only when they are worn. Wearing gloves also allows other PPE to perform as intended. For instance, in this incident, stretching Nomex sleeves to cover hands caused burns on elbows because the Nomex shirt was too tight against the skin.
- Communication in emergencies is critical and is sometimes difficult. Use clear terminology to ensure that others understand what has happened, where people are located, and what injuries have occurred. Use sufficient details to provide good information and to prevent misunderstanding.

To see the complete **Acadian Firefighter Burn Injuries FLA**
http://wildfirelessons.net/documents/Acadian_fire_burn_injury_FLA.pdf