

Florida Division of Forestry

Preliminary Summary Report

FL DOF Serious Incident



Suwannee Forestry Center

June 20, 2011

Incident #2011-06-1130

This Preliminary Summary Report is intended as an aid in accident prevention, and to provide factual information from the first 24 hours of the incident review. To that end it is published and distributed within a short time frame. Information contained within may be subject to revision as further investigation is conducted, and other reports and documents are received.

FL DOF Serious Incident Preliminary (24 Hour) Report

Synopsis

The following information is a preliminary summary of a burnover resulting in two fatalities and two injuries that occurred while conducting wildland fire suppression activities in Hamilton County within the Florida Division of Forestry's Suwannee Forestry Center.

Narrative

At approximately 1455 hours on June 20, 2011, there was a break-out on the Blue Ribbon Fire in Hamilton County, Incident #2011-06-1130, which originally started on June 16, 2011. Initial responding units to this break-out consisted of one fire supervisor, two Type 6 engines, four Type 2 enclosed cab Tractor/Plow units and one Type 3 open cab Tractor Plow unit. At approximately 1630 hours, radio contact was lost with two of the Tractor/Plow units (one Type 2 and the one Type 3).

The Type 3 Tractor/Plow unit became stumped in a Hardwood cut-over dry swamp. One of the Type 2 Tractor/Plow units came to assist and became hung up in the process as well. With the fire approaching, the two operators left their units on foot and both were overtaken by fire shortly after where they both perished.

In addition, two others were injured (one engine operator and another Type 2 Tractor/Plow unit operator) in their attempt to rescue the operators who were burned over. Both were transported to area hospitals, treated and released the evening of June 20, 2011.

Incident Review Team

An Incident Review Team has been formed and will travel to the Suwannee Forestry Center on Wednesday, June 22, 2011 to complete the investigation of this burnover. A final report will be submitted to the Division of Forestry's Chief of Forest Protection when completed.