

28.9

NWCG
WILDLAND FIRE ENTRAPMENT/FATALITY
INITIAL REPORT

Timely reporting of entrapments or fatalities is necessary for the rapid dissemination of accurate information to the fire management community. It will also allow fire safety and equipment specialists to quickly respond to these events as appropriate. This initial report does not replace agency reporting or investigative responsibilities, policies or procedures. Complete this report for fire-related entrapment and/or fatalities. Immediately notify the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICCC) via: Intelligence Section. Submit this written report to the address given below within 24 hours. Submit even if some data are missing.

NICCC-National Interagency Fire Center
3833 S. Development Avenue
Boise, Idaho 83703-6334

Phone (208) 387-5400
FAX (208) 387-5414

NICCC Intelligence Section
DD-AINT-W02A
IAMS-FCNICCCOR

I. General Information

A. Date 5/5/97

B. Fire name and location Cinco De Mayo, South Blocks, Collier County, Florida

C. Number of personnel involved 3

D. Number of injuries 0

E. Number of fatalities 0

One in a shelter other took tractor into block, tractors 200+ yds apart.

II. Fire Related Information

A. Fuel Model South Rough (Med)

B. Temperature 81 R.H. 43 Wind 12 (mph)

C. Topography Flat Slope 0 %

D. Fire size at time of incident/accident 1000 Acres

E. Urban/wildland intermix Yes No *A few isolated structures*

F. Cause of Fire Natural Incendary Accidental Unknown

III. Entrapment

A situation where personnel are unexpectedly caught in a fire-behavior related, life threatening position where escape routes or safety zones are absent, inadequate or have been compromised. An entrapment may or may not include deployment of a fire shelter.

A. Entrapment Information

1. Personnel trapped with fire shelter without fire shelter

2. Burns/smoke injuries incurred while in fire shelter Yes No

3. Burns/smoke injuries incurred while escaping entrapment Yes No

4. Burns/smoke injuries incurred while fighting fire Yes No

5. Fire shelter performed satisfactorily Yes No

6. Fire shelter was available, but not used *NA* Yes No

NFIS NO. 0869 (See Attachment)

B. Personal Protective Equipment Used

1. Fire Shelter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	5. Protective Shirt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
2. Protective Pants	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	6. Hardhat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
3. Gloves	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	7. Boots	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
4. Face/Neck Protection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	8. Goggles	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

9. *Also had wrist protection on.*

IV. Fatalities

A. Type of accident

<input type="checkbox"/> 1. Aircraft	<input type="checkbox"/> 5. Vehicle
<input type="checkbox"/> 2. Natural (lightning, drowning, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> 6. Snake
<input type="checkbox"/> 3. Medical (heart, stroke, heat, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> 7. Entrapment
<input type="checkbox"/> 4. Struck by Falling Object	<input type="checkbox"/> 8. Other

B. Where fatality(s) occurred

<input type="checkbox"/> 1. Fire site	<input type="checkbox"/> 3. In transit
<input type="checkbox"/> 2. Incident Scene	<input type="checkbox"/> 4. Other

C. Fatalities

1. Name _____ D.O.B. _____
 Employment status Career Seasonal Casual Other

2. Name _____ D.O.B. _____
 Employment status Career Seasonal Casual Other

3. Name _____ D.O.B. _____
 Employment status Career Seasonal Casual Other

4. Name _____ D.O.B. _____
 Employment status Career Seasonal Casual Other

D. Employing agency _____

E. Unit name and address _____

F. Firefighting part of employee's job description Yes No

G. Person to contact for additional information _____ Phone _____
 Home unit address _____

H. Brief description of accident

CINCO DE MAYO FIRE**May 5, 1997****Collier County Florida**

- ◆ On May 5, 1997 two DOF firefighters were building line on the right flank of the Cinco De Mayo fire in Collier County.
- ◆ The lead tractor was plowing a fireline, with the second tractor doing blade work to widen the line in cap rock pine/palmetto fuels. The tractors were 200+ yards apart.
- ◆ The winds most of that day were out of the northeast with an occasional windshift from the east.
- ◆ At about 17:30 the two Caloosahatchee Rangers started plowing a line south from 68th Street flanking the fire which had 4 foot flame lengths at the time.
- ◆ At 18:00 the Rangers were contacted by the Incident Commander, Caloosahatchee-5, with word of a wind shift out of the east and blowup conditions.
- ◆ The second tractor, immediately built a safety zone and prepared for deployment with no time to escape the fast moving head fire.
- ◆ He deployed his shelter under intense wind and smoke conditions in front of the blade of his tractor with the plow facing the oncoming head fire. He spent 8 minutes in the shelter as the head fire with 30-35 foot fame length went over his safety area.

- ◆ The lead Ranger was able to locate a open grass/pine area and also built a safety zone. He stayed with his enclosed tractor until he was able to go into the black. He did an excellent job of staying away from the heavy fuels that surrounded him.
- ◆ Both Rangers did an excellent job of staying calm, keeping track of fire conditions, having good communication with there I.C. and having a safety zone to use for protection. The fire shelter directly saved the life of one firefighter.

Report of Burn over and shelter deployment Incident of 5-5-97

The Cinco de Mayo Fire
Picayune Strand State Forest
Fire Behavior Analysis by John Kern,
Lee County FAS, Division of Forestry

Fuels: This fire was burning an area with an overstory comprised of south Florida slash pine, sabal palms, and some bald cypress. The understory is composed of mostly palmetto. This area has been exposed to less rain than the Caloosahatchee District Office where the daily fire danger weather is calculated and found to have a fine fuel moisture of 17 percent. I believe the fine fuels in the burn area are much drier.

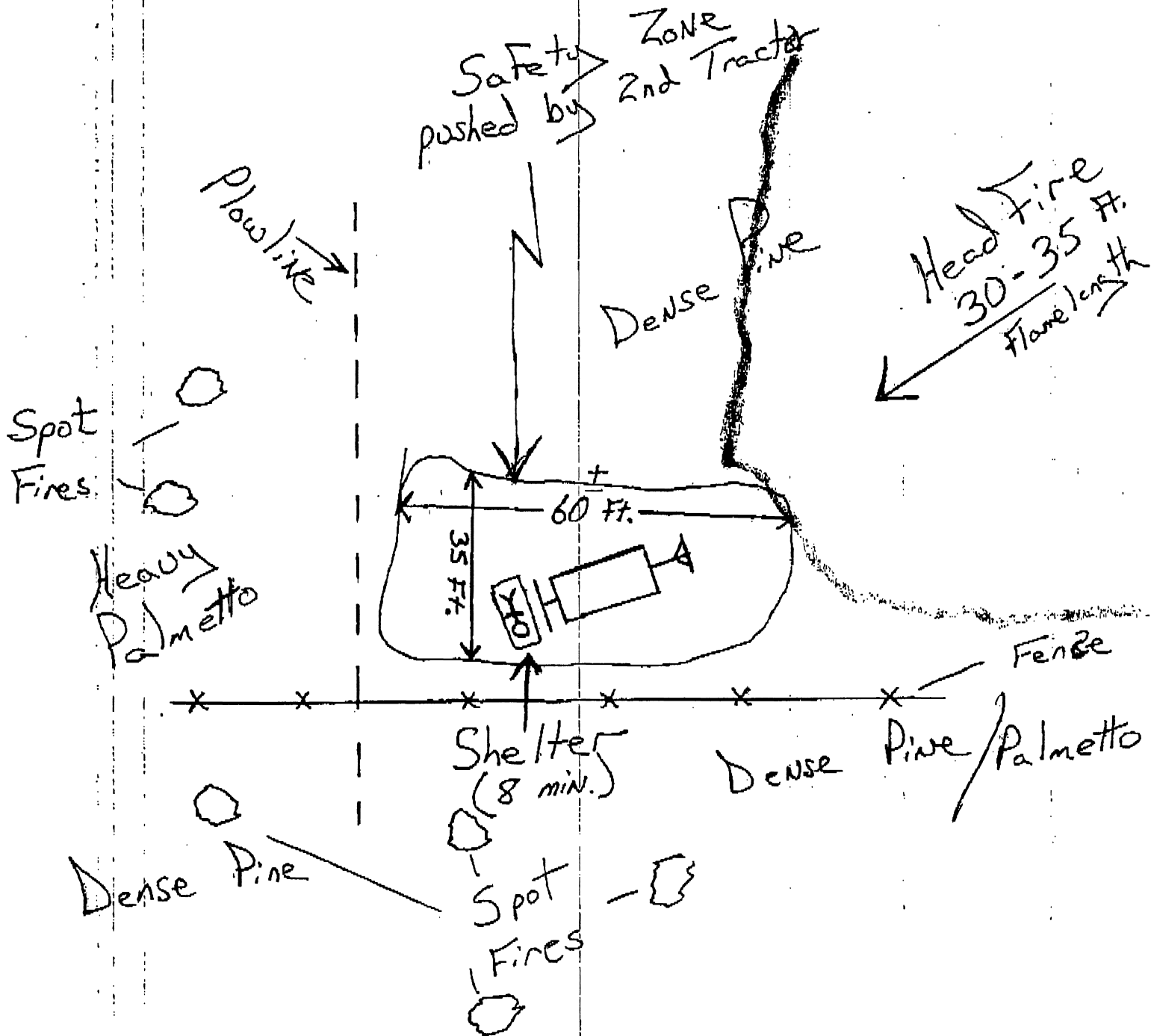
There was no evidence that this area had been burned for at least 4 years.

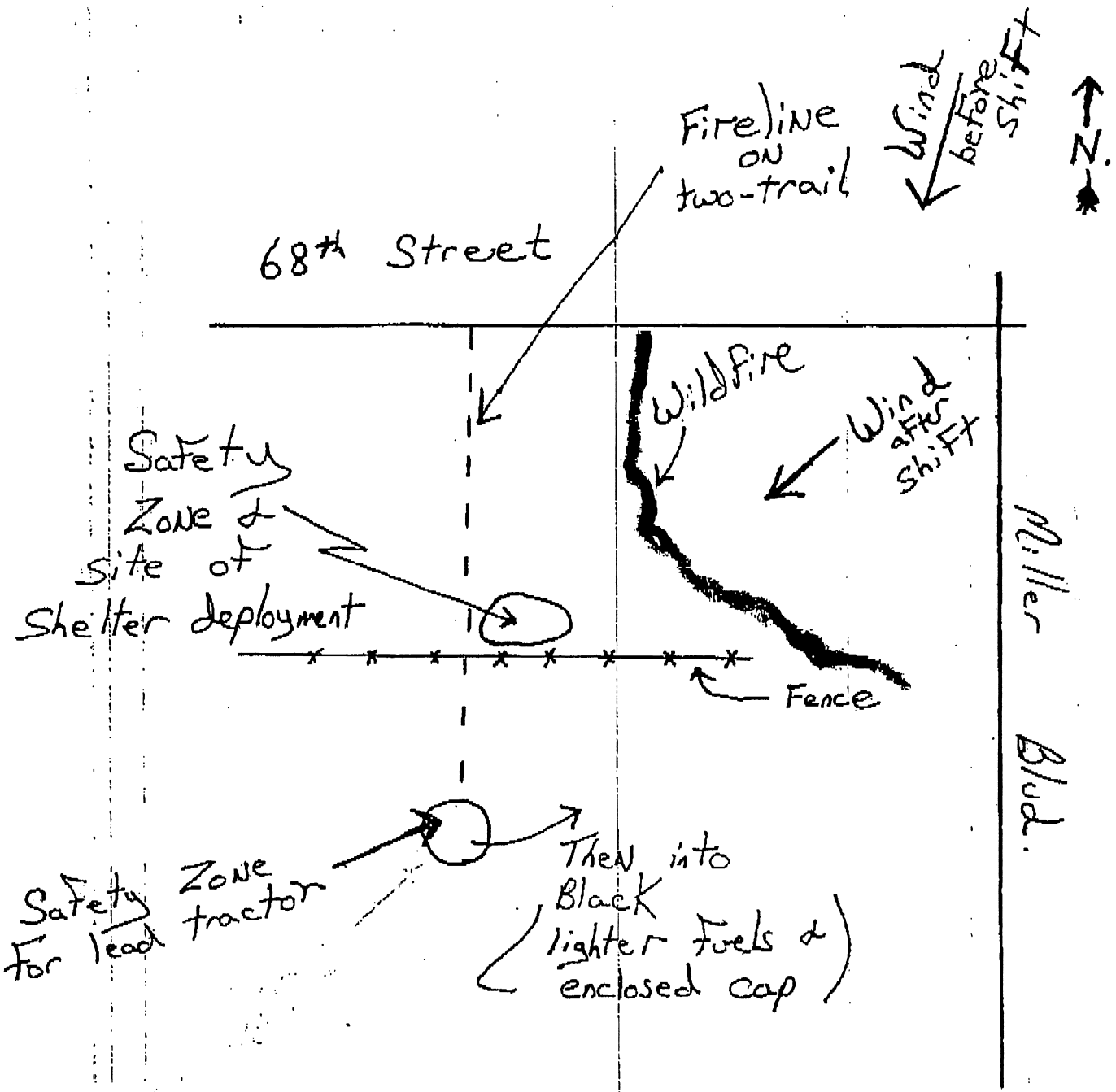
Weather: The long term weather had been fairly dry. The Caloosahatchee District had a Keetch-Byram Drought Index of 641. The Build-up was 18 (Mod.) and the Spread was 18 (high). The weather forecasted for that day was 81 degrees max. temp. Minimum relative humidity was predicted to be 43 percent. The winds were predicted to be northeast at 12. The dispersion index was predicted to be 64 (moderately unstable).

The on scene weather observations, taken by myself, were RH of 30% and the winds were predominantly from the northeast at 10-15 MPH.

Topography: This area is very flat. There are several roads and a few canals in the area.

Fire Behavior: As I was approaching the fire scene there was a very large and very well defined convective column. I observed a pyrocumulus cloud top when I was 10-20 miles from the fire. The fire behavior observed was 6'-10' in the palmetto on average. When the fire moved through areas with more sabal palms and thicker palmetto the flame lengths reached 15-35 feet. Short range spotting (10' to 50') was common on the head of the fire. The Caloosahatchee pilot also reported long range spotting (100'-1,500') at times. The fire had crossed several paved roads and a canal. The rate of spread was estimated to be between 20 and 100 chains per hour. There were some localized wind shifts associated with strong indrafts towards the more intensely burning areas.





Then into
Black
lighter fuels &
enclosed cap)

South Blocks of Golden Gate
Area, Collier County