



File Code: 6730

Date: July 12, 2011

Subject: 72 Hour Expanded Briefing – Mt. Emma Crew Carrier Accident-ANF

To: Randy Moore, Regional Forester; Jeanne Wade Evans, Deputy Regional Forester;
Dan Jiron, Deputy Regional Forester; and Ron Ketter, Deputy Regional Forester

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Location: Mt. Emma Road between Fort Tejon and Cheseboro Roads, Angeles National Forest, Region 5.

Date and Time of Occurrence: July 4, 2011 at 2133 Hours

Number of serious injuries: 2 hospitalized

Number of fatalities: None

Property damage: 1-Hotshot Crew Carrier, extensive

Preliminary findings:

The driver of the crew carrier was properly trained, certified, and experienced to drive the subject crew carrier.

The driver took action to avoid an animal in the roadway.

Vehicle control was lost as a result of the avoidance maneuver.

The use of seatbelts drastically reduced the extent of injuries incurred and potentially prevented fatalities.

The retrofit installation of seatbelts that meet the new draft national standard crew carrier specification increases the use of seatbelts.

Narrative:

At approximately 2130 on July 4, 2011, a hotshot crew carrier was returning to quarters after completing fire prevention activities and pre-positioning for possible lightning strikes. The



distance from where the crew had been pre-positioned to the crew quarters was approximately 9 miles. After driving for approximately 2 1/2 miles, the vehicle left the roadway (Mt. Emma Road), and overturned after going down an embankment, coming to rest on the driver's side. All nine crew members were transported to four local hospitals for evaluation and treatment. Seven crew members were released by 0500 on July 5, 2011; one crew member was released from the hospital on July 9, 2011; and one crew member remains hospitalized for additional treatment and monitoring.

Preliminary reports from crew members involved in the accident indicate the driver took evasive action to avoid an animal in the road. This action caused a loss of control and the vehicle subsequently crossed the opposing traffic lane and went down the embankment. Mt. Emma Road is a rural, paved two-lane road with no street lights in Los Angeles County. According to crew members and emergency responders the road was dry.

The crew carrier was removed on July 6, 2011 from the accident site and transported to the San Dimas Technology and Development Center in San Dimas, CA for further evaluation. The cause of this accident and recommendations for prevention continue to be investigated and developed by a Forest Service Serious Accident Investigation Team.

/s/Eli Ilano

Eli Ilano
Team Leader

cc:

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