



File Code: 6730
Route To:

Date: September 8, 2005

Subject: Expanded Briefing
Descanso Engine 45 Vehicle Accident, Cleveland NF
September 5, 2005

To: Cecilia Bennett, DASHO

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Name of injured: No FS Employee injuries. 3 Adults and 2 minor children transported to Hospital.

Preliminary factual findings: The crew of Cleveland NF Engine 45 was responding to the Sun Devil vegetation fire in San Diego County as part of an FS Strike Team of Engines on September 5, 2005. While in route to the incident, proceeding with red lights, siren, and air horn, the Engine was struck by a Honda Pilot at the intersection of Scripps-Poway Parkway and Pomerado Road. No injuries were sustained by FS employees. Two of the five passengers in the Honda Pilot were extricated and flown to Sharp Memorial Hospital. The other three passengers were transported by ambulance.



Narrative:

On September 5, 2005 Cleveland Engine 45 was dispatched to the Sun Devil vegetation fire at 1627 hours. The Engine had traveled 32.5 miles when they came to the major urban intersection of Scripps-Poway Parkway and Pomerado Road. The Engine was driving code three and had used the air horn before entering into the intersection. Upon entering the intersection, an employee in the back seat of the engine noticed a passenger vehicle to the left of the engine seconds before impact. The FS Engine was struck in the left front of the vehicle. The front end of the engine was heavily damaged by the impact and the Honda Pilot sustained major damage to the passenger side of the vehicle. On impact, the engine

turned 180 degrees and came to rest on the northwest corner of the intersection.

Even though shaken, the firefighters on the Engine radioed Dispatch at 1717 hours to have medics respond and administered first aid to all passengers in the other vehicle. Two people were air lifted and three were ground transported. As of today, one adult is extremely critical in the ICU and one adult and one minor are still being treated at the Hospital.

A review of this accident is ongoing by a Regional Accident Investigation team.

/s/ Judie L. Tartaglia

JUDIE L. TARTAGLIA
Team Leader

cc: Dave Poucher, Regional Health and Safety Manager

