



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Los Padres  
National Forest

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**File Code:** 6700

**Date:** June 13, 2008

**Route To:**

**Subject:** Preliminary 24-hour Briefing of Engine 71 Burn Injuries  
Indians Fire

**To:** Peggy Hernandez, Forest Supervisor  
Ken Heffner, Deputy Forest Supervisor

**THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

**Location:** Indians Fire, Los Padres Forest, California

**Date of occurrence:** June 11, 2008

**Time of occurrence:** Approx 1615 Hours

**Team leader:** Ted Moore

**Mission:** Fire Suppression

**Activity:** Supporting firing operations along Del Venturi Road.

**Number injured:** 4 burn injuries

**Number of fatalities:** None

**Narrative:** At approximately 1615 hours while supporting a firing operation, Engine-71 was involved in a localized fire blow-up. A cyclonic fire wind event caused four members of Engine-71 to be overcome by the fire. The crew was suppressing spot fires near the road edge when they experienced extreme fire and wind behavior. Winds were estimated to be 60 – 70 mph. Limbs from large oak trees were blown out of trees and small, golf ball size rocks, were thrown into the air. The radiant heat caused the burns to the fire fighters. Initially, the firefighters were treated at the ICP medical unit, two were sent to a local hospital for further treatment and the most serious burn victim was flown to Valley Burn Center in Santa Clara. A fourth firefighter did not initially seek treatment. After further consideration, the 4<sup>th</sup> firefighter chose to see a physician. The three firefighters have been referred to the Fresno Burn Center for further examination.

An Accident Prevention Analysis (APA) team has been ordered to review this incident.

/s/ Peggy Hernandez  
Forest Health Supervisor  
Los Padres National Forest



cc: Rick Yoerks, Team Member, Dana D'Andrea, Incident Commander, CIIMT-7, Anthony Escobar, Los Padres Forest Fires Management Officer, Peter Tolosano, Regional Fire Safety Officer