



NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service
Daniel Boone National Forest

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Redbird Ranger District
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For Immediate Release
Peabody, Kentucky
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Serious Injuries Result from Arson Fire

Krs Evans, a 30-year-old firefighter from Quincy, California remains in serious condition after being injured fighting an arson-caused wildland fire in Clay County, Kentucky. Evans' injuries include spinal cord and spleen injuries, broken clavicle, ribs and back, and a partially collapsed lung. He is awaiting surgery at the University of Kentucky Medical Center in Lexington. Evans' injuries occurred when a fire-weakened tree unexpectedly fell on him.

Fire Information Officer, Steve Parsons stated, "This act of violence has resulted in potentially life-changing injuries to a young man who has worked to protect the natural resources of this nation." Parsons stated that in addition to Evans' injuries, more than 100 homes have been threatened by these senseless acts of arson. "Arson is as mindless an act as terrorism. The perpetrator apparently has no thought or care for the injuries to others."

Evans, a member of the Plumas Hot Shot Crew, was injured Wednesday, October 31, 2001 on the 80-acre Poplar Log Fire. This is one of 35 arson-caused fires that have occurred within the Proclamation Boundary of the Redbird Purchase Unit of the Daniel Boone National Forest. These fires are being suppressed under a joint command of the U.S. Forest Service and the Kentucky Division of Forestry. Approximately 650 firefighters and support personnel have been assembled at the Redbird to suppress these fires.

A team of law enforcement officers and investigators has been assembled to investigate the fires. So far, two persons have been arrested and charged with arson, not related to the Poplar Log Fire. Individuals charged with arson involving structures could receive a minimum \$5000 fine and/or a minimum of seven years in prison. Additionally, restitution for damage or injuries is a possibility. The person, or persons responsible for Evans' injuries has not yet been apprehended, however, the investigation is continuing.

Anyone having information pertaining to any arson fire is encouraged to call 911 or the Kentucky Target Arson Hotline, 1-800-27ARSON.

If you have any questions, please contact the Fire Information at 606-598-2192.

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