



USDA Forest Service  
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest  
1200 Franklin Way  
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US Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Fire and Aviation  
3833 S Development Ave.  
Boise, ID 83705

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**To:** Howard Hedrick, Assistant Director, Acting  
William A. Dunkelberger, Forest Supervisor, Humbolt-Toiyabe NF

**From:** Carl Petrick, FLA Team Lead

**Subject:** **72 Hour Preliminary Preacher Fire Entrapment**

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

**Location:** Preacher Fire - Carson City District BLM

**Date of Occurrence:** July 24, 2017

**Time of Occurrence:** 1800

**Local Agency Administrator:** Ralph Thomas

**Activity:** Suppression

**Number of Injuries:** 1

**Number of Fatalities:** 0

**Property Damage:** N/A

**Narrative:**

The Preacher Fire was started by lightning around 3:30 a.m. on Monday, July 24, 2017. The fire was burning in heavy cheatgrass, brush and scattered piñon-juniper.

Aviation and ground forces had aggressively worked the fire on Monday. At approximately 1700, Zephyr winds pushed the fire past containment efforts. As a result, the escape route for a crew lookout was compromised and he had to retreat from the fire through unburned fuels. Air Attack was informed of this situation and responded by calling for aerial resources to assist in locating the lookout.

The lookout lit a fire to create a safety zone, which aided a Type I helicopter to quickly locate him. The helicopter landed and the lookout boarded the aircraft and was taken to the helibase at the Minden-Tahoe Airport.

The crew boss transported the lookout to the local hospital for evaluation and treatment. During the evaluation, it was discovered that the lookout had suffered a possible injury to his airway. Following the Burn Injury Criteria in the 2017 Red Book, he was transported to the nearest regional burn center. He was released the following morning.

An interagency Forest Service and BLM Facilitated Learning Analysis (FLA) team arrived on July 27 and began interviews, site visits and gathering information to prepare a Facilitated Learning Analysis.

The FLA team will be releasing a Rapid Lesson Shared (RLS) prior to the FLA report.



Carl Petrick  
FLA Team Lead