



NORTHWEST COLORADO FIRE MANAGEMENT UNIT

Refer To:

9210

June 14, 2017

To: Ruth Welch, Colorado State Director

From: Bruce Sillitoe 

Subject: 72-Hour Expanded Report, Temple Fire

Location: Temple Fire, Southwest of Lay, Colorado

Date of Occurrence: June 10, 2017

Time of Occurrence: Approximately 1545

Activity: Operating a Chainsaw on Wildland Fire

Number of Injuries: 1

Number of Fatalities: 0

Property Damage (such as to vessels, equipment, and structures): None

Narrative: At approximately 1545 Hours on 06/10/2017 a Wildland Fire Module was constructing direct saw line around the Temple Fire, which was burning in Pinon/Juniper on a mix of BLM and private lands approximately 23 miles west-southwest of Craig, CO. The fire was estimated to be 60-70 acres at the time of the incident.

A member of a Wildland Fire Module was preparing to cut a juniper tree that was burning at the trunk. The sawyer began cutting the tree when the saw died. He attempted to restart the saw to no avail. He then stepped into the unburned area approximately 10 feet from the burning tree and opened the fuel cap. He observed that the fuel tank was still approximately half full. The swamper observed the sawyer replacing the cap before starting the saw and approaching the tree to start cutting again. As the sawyer approached the burning tree he noticed a significant increase in fire activity in his immediate vicinity. When he looked down he observed that his chaps and nomex pants were engulfed in flames.

He quickly dropped the saw, and began fumbling with the chaps attempting to remove the buckles. The swamper yelled at him to drop and roll, which he did. When he stood up, the chaps were around his ankles and still had some fire burning on them. The swamper grabbed a water bottle and poured the water on the sawyer's legs and chaps, extinguishing the remainder of the flames.



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Once the fire was extinguished the patient was evaluated and treated on site by two EMT's, both members of the Wildland Fire Module. The decision was made to transport the patient via a BLM pickup already on the incident to meet a ground ambulance on a nearby county road. By 1628 the patient was loaded into an ambulance and transported to The Memorial Hospital in Craig, CO. He arrived at the hospital at approximately 1700.

The current status of the patient's injuries are 2nd degree burns on his inner thighs, back of legs, and top of calf areas. He is currently undergoing treatments.

Action Taken to Date:

A Rapid Lesson Sharing was initiated and it was determined that a Facilitated Learning Analysis is more applicable. A Facilitated Learning Analysis team is being assembled.

CC: Dennis Jaeger