



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Region 8, Southern Region,
Apalachicola RD,
National Forests in Florida

11152 NW State Route 20
Bristol, Florida 32321
(850) 643-2282

File Code: 6700

Date: January 26th, 2020

Route To:

Subject: Apalachicola Ranger District Firefighter Injury 72 Hour Report

To: Forest Supervisor National Forest in Florida,
Forest Supervisor Bighorn National Forest

Location: Marianna, FL Apalachicola Ranger District

Date of Occurrence: January 23rd, 2020

Time of Occurrence: Approximately 1900 Central Time

Activity: Physical Fitness Training

Number of Injuries: 1

Number of Fatalities: 0

Narrative:

On the evening of January 23rd, 2020, at approximately 1900 Central Time, a Forest Service Employee working with a Job Corp Fire Module was struck by a vehicle during a PT (Physical Fitness) run.

The Job Corp Module arrived on the Apalachicola Ranger District to assist with their Prescribed Fire Operations in the late afternoon, and met with the District Assistant Fire Management Officer (AFMO). They received an initial briefing from the AFMO, and the decision was made that the module would be released to their hotel to PT, eat, and rest for the evening. They would return early in the morning to receive a thorough Unit in-briefing.

The module made arrangements to stay in Marianna Florida. They briefed for the evening, and separated to continue with their PT. The injured crew member is an avid jogger, and selected a route that would take them out and back from the hotel. Approximately two miles from the hotel, the crew member was struck by a vehicle as it was making a left hand turn.

Emergency services were immediately contacted, and the crew member was transported by air ambulance to Southeast Health in Dothan Alabama. The crew member sustained multiple injuries during the accident, and was placed in the Neurological Treatment Care Center for several days. The family was notified of the incident immediately, and arrived on January 24th, 2020. Since that time, the crew member's condition has greatly improved, and is expected to make a full recovery.



A Hospital and Family Liaison from the local unit immediately responded, and a replacement Liaison has arrived to assist the family and the Apalachicola Ranger District as needed. The Bighorn National Forest and the National Forests in Florida have been communicating daily, and will continue to offer support as requested.

Forest Service Law Enforcement is currently conducting an investigation in coordination with local law enforcement. The National Forest in Florida Safety Manager is coordinating the additional accident investigations required, and will make the information known as appropriate.

It is expected that the crew member will be released from the hospital soon, and the Hospital Family Liaison is coordinating to meet the family's needs to get them home.

/s/ Heath Bell

Heath Bell
Region 8 Fire Risk Management Officer (Detailed)

Cc: Washington Office Occupational Safety and Health; Region 2 Regional Forester; Region 8 Regional Forester; Region 2 Fire and Aviation Director; Region 8 Fire and Aviation Director; Mary Morris; Terry Swinscoe; Doug Parish; Shane Greer; Keith Fields; Wildfire Lessons Learned Center

