



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Rocky Mountain National Park
Estes Park, Colorado 80517

IN REPLY REFER TO:
Y14 (ROMO)

June 19, 2013

MEMORANDUM

To: National Park Service Wildland Fire Safety Program Manager, Chad Fisher
From: Fire Management Officer, Mike Lewelling
Subject: Big Meadows Medevac Incident 72 Hour Report

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

LOCATION: Big Meadows Fire, Rocky Mountain National Park

DATE OF OCCURRENCE: June 16, 2013

ACTIVITY: Wildland fire suppression operations - Extended Attack

INCIDENT SUMMARY: Early on the morning of Sunday, June 16, a member of an Interagency Hotshot Crew (IHC) walking with his crew from spike camp to the fireline collapsed due to sudden cardiac arrest. Prompt action by members of two hotshot crews, as well as fire-line paramedics that arrived minutes later, contributed to the successful resuscitation of the firefighter. An Automated External Defibrillator (AED) was used on site to resuscitate the firefighter.

Fellow crewmembers then transported the firefighter to the nearest helispot just as the requested medevac helicopter arrived on scene. The firefighter was then transferred to the medical flight crew and taken to a cardiac care hospital in Denver, Colorado.

At the request of the Superintendent of Rocky Mountain National Park, an interagency review team, consisting of National Park Service, United States Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management personnel, has gathered at Rocky Mountain National Park. They will be conducting a Lessons Learned Review to capture and share the numerous lessons that emerged from this medical emergency.

/s/ Mike Lewelling, Fire Management Officer