



BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
Colville Indian Agency  
Post Office Box 111 Nespelem, Washington 99155-0111

August 15, 2019

To: Debra Wulff, Agency Superintendent, Colville Agency  
From: Troy Phelps, Lessons Learned Review Team Lead  
Subject: 72-Hour Expanded Report, Silver Creek Motor Vehicle Accident, Incident Within Incident (IWI), Williams Flats Fire

**Number and Type of Injuries:** Four injured personnel.

Firefighter 1: Compression fracture to spine, bruised lung, and two broken ribs. Flown to advanced care medical facility. Released from advanced care facility on August 18, 2019.

Firefighter 2: Fractured scapula, cuts and bruises. Patient evaluated at local medical facility, transferred to advanced care medical facility, assessed and released.

Firefighters 3 and 4: Cuts, bruises, and soreness. Both patients treated and released after evaluation at local medical facility.

**Narrative:** 9:30 p.m. on August 12, 2019

Upon completing workday on Division "I" all assigned resources drove a well maintained dirt road to the Williams Flats Incident Command Post (ICP) for the evening. While towing a trailer loaded with a UTV, a light (4x4) truck left the roadway and traveled approximately 125 feet down a steep embankment impacting a large tree. This impact injured all four firefighters onboard. Three of the four occupants were wearing seat belts.

Upon report of the IWI, the Incident Management Team established a command structure and began the IWI protocol. After completing an onsite medical assessment, all patients received advanced medical care within 10 minutes of initiating the IWI.

Using training and immobilization equipment, fire personnel extracted and transported Firefighter 1 to the roadway where they were then flown to an advanced care medical facility. Firefighters 2, 3 and 4 were transported via ground vehicles to the local medical facility. This process took less than an hour from the report of the IWI.

**Action Taken to Date:**

- Delegation of Authority signed by Agency Superintendent.
- Lesson Learned Team assembled, assigned and gathering information.
- Lessons Learned Team has visited accident site and met with crew on August 16, 2019.
- Peer Support Team assembled, assigned, and engaged. They have conducted group debriefing with affected personnel and the injured firefighter and family at the advanced care medical facility.
- The Wildland Firefighter Foundation is providing monetary support to the family of Firefighter 1.