



File Code: 6730/5100

Date: September 5, 2017

Route To:

Subject: Miller Complex Engine Rollover Accident 72-Hour Preliminary Report

To: Regional Forester

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

Location: Intersection of Forest Service Road 1035 and County Road 777, Siskiyou Mountains
Ranger District, Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest

Date of Occurrence: August 27, 2017

Time of Occurrence: Approximately 1530 Pacific Time

Activity: Wildland Firefighting

Number and Type of Injuries: Driver: serious back injury, ankle, lower leg; Crewmember 1:
knee; Crewmember 2: neck abrasion

Fatalities: None

Equipment Damage: Total loss of a Contract Type 6 Engine, Regular Cab Dodge Ram 5500
4x4 Utility Body

Narrative: On 27 August 2017, between 1530 and 1545, a contracted Type 6 engine assigned to
conduct structure protection assessments on the Miller Complex rolled off Forest Service Road
(FSR) 1035. The engine was approaching the intersection of FSR 1035 and County Road 777.
Vehicle speed was estimated less than 20 mph. The vehicle drifted to the left side of FSR 1035
and travelled about 200 feet before rolling off the road. The engine rolled 1.5 times down a
steep, approximately 30-foot-high embankment into Carberry Creek, before coming to rest on its
driver side. Three firefighters were seated in the front of the vehicle at the time of the accident
(Driver and Crewmembers 1 and 2).

Crewmembers 1 and 2 were immediately able to exit the vehicle. The Driver remained trapped
in the vehicle and partially submersed in a cold stream, with his left leg pinned underneath the
vehicle. The Driver directed Crewmembers 1 and 2 to call for help, however, several attempts to
contact help by radio were unsuccessful. Crewmember 1 was able to walk and search for help,
however, was unsuccessful in contacting two adjacent landowners. Approximately one hour
after the accident, Crewmember 1 found a Heavy Equipment Boss (HEQB) assigned to the fire,
who was also EMT-B qualified.

At 1704 the rollover was radioed in to the Incident Management Team (IMT) managing the fire
by the HEQB, who became the Incident within Incident Commander (IIC). Local fire district
extrication team, paramedics, and multiple IMT resources responded with assistance from a
local ranch owner. The IIC used the Incident Command System to efficiently manage 55



personnel involved with the accident response. Extrication required removing the roof of the engine to rescue the driver and using a low-angle rescue team to carry the Driver to a nearby landing zone. At 1848 the Driver was airlifted to a local hospital, arriving at 1902. The two crewmembers were also driven by ambulance to the hospital. Crewmembers 1 and 2 were treated and immediately released. The Driver remains in the hospital with back and leg injuries.

An interagency Forest Service and BLM team was delegated by the Agency Administrator to conduct a Facilitated Learning Analysis (FLA) about this accident. The FLA team also included a local wildland fire contractor to provide contractor perspectives and serve as liaison with accident victims. The team convened on 3 September to interview participants, conduct site visits, and gather information to prepare the FLA.

/s/ Ian Reid

IAN REID

District Ranger

cc: Assistant Regional Fire Director, Fire Operations Safety
Regional Fire Director
Regional Safety Manager
Forest Supervisor, Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest
District Ranger, Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District
Incident Commander
Contract Company Owner