

Preliminary Accident Information Briefing (24 Hour/72 Hour)

To: Nora Rasure, Regional Forester
From: Joe Alexander FLA Team Leader
Subject: Willow Peak Fire, Serious Burn Injury

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Location: Spring Mountains National Recreation Area, Humboldt-Toiyabe NF
Date of Occurrence: May 25, 2015
Time of Occurrence: Approximately 0900 hours
Activity: Wildland Fire ~ Initial Attack
Number and type of injuries: One, Serious Burns
Property loss: Minimal

Narrative:

On Monday, May 25, 2015, a firefighter was seriously injured on the Willow Peak Fire in Southern Nevada. The fire was discovered late on Sunday in the Mt. Charleston Wilderness. Early on the next morning an engine module hiked in over rough terrain to suppress the fire. The initial size up was .10 acre, single tree on upper third of slope with 75% of perimeter active.

During the initial attack a firefighter received serious burns from a gasoline fire during chainsaw operations. The firefighter was transported out of the wilderness and flown to University Medical Center's burn center in Las Vegas for treatment.

The Intermountain Regional Forester has a Facilitated Learning Analysis team in Las Vegas conducting a review of the circumstances that lead to this injury.

The U.S. Forest Service is striving to become a learning organization. One of the keys to reaching this goal is to appropriately respond to unintended outcomes. Once the Facilitated Learning Analysis Report is completed it will be posted on the Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center website and distributed through other means to agency employees and communities of interest.

/s/ Joe Alexander