



USDA Forest Service
Intermountain Region, R4
324 25th Street
Ogden, UT 84401



US Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado State Office
2850 Youngfield Street
Lakewood, CO 80205

To: Greg Shoop, Colorado State Director, Acting
Nora Rasure, Intermountain Regional Forester
From: Jake Strohmeyer, FLA Team Leader
Subject: 72 Hour Preliminary Report

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Location: Horse Park Fire, SW of Naturita, Colorado

Date of Occurrence: May 27th

Time of Occurrence: Approximately 1710

Local Agency Administrator: Stephanie Connolly, District Manager

Activity: Wildland Fire Suppression

Number of Injuries: 0

Number of Fatalities: 0

Property Damage: Significant fire damage to F-350 pickup and loss of firefighting gear

Narrative: Two crew members were scouting a road for a potential burnout operation when their truck became stuck. They were unable to free the truck before the fire began to overtake them. The crewmembers made the decision to abandon the truck and take their gear with them. They fled back down the road and away from the fire. One crew member ran ahead and made it safely back to the other vehicles. The other crew member dropped his pack, keeping his fire shelter and radio with him. An additional crew member came up the road on a UTV to help him escape. The pair drove to the parking area where the other crew members were waiting in the vehicles.

Meanwhile, the crew lookout was forced to flee from the lookout position by the same advance of the fire. Given the fire behavior, the lookout did not feel it was possible to outpace the fire and make it back to the vehicles, so instead moved down and away from the fire. The lookout dropped their pack, but kept the fire shelter, a tool, and radio. At some point during the escape, the lookout realized that the antennae was no longer attached to the radio and there was no way to communicate with the crew or other resources. After

moving a considerable distance down a drainage, the lookout found a grassy spot that appeared suitable to deploy a shelter, and began lighting the fuels in the area. Before deployment was necessary, aerial resources located the lookout, who was picked up and flown back to the parking area to rejoin the crew.

There were no injuries as a result of this incident. An Interagency FLA team, is in place and reviewing the incident.



Burned Pack



Fire damaged truck

/s/ Jake Strohmeyer, FLA Team Leader
