



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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July 31, 2018

To: Peter Ditton, Acting Idaho State Director
From: Dave Whitmer, Accident Investigation Team Lead
Subject: 72-Hour Preliminary Report

David R. Whitmer

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Location: Grassy Ridge Fire, Dubois, Idaho

Date of Occurrence: July 28, 2018

Time of Occurrence: Approximately 1115 hours

Activity: Wildland Fire Suppression

Number of Injuries: 1 (minor)

Number of Fatalities: 0

Property Damage: N/A

Narrative: On July 28, 2018, at approximately 1115 MDT, incoming Division Supervisor on Division Echo of the Grassy Ridge Fire deployed a fire shelter on the side of a two-track road to deflect radiant heat. Due to changing fire conditions, the Division Supervisor attempted to return to the anchor point. During the retreat, fire on both sides of the road was producing high temperature radiant heat, as well as decreased visibility due to smoke. After determining retreat was no longer possible, the incoming Division Supervisor deployed his fire shelter.

The incoming Division Supervisor sustained a few minor first degree burns and was evaluated by local incident medical staff and released.

An Accident Investigation Team has been assigned, and is working with the Idaho Falls District to provide an accident investigation report and learning document. The intent of the investigation is to learn from the events surrounding this fire shelter deployment.