

119 Road Burnover – March 23, 2017

Location: Approximately four miles north of Seminole, Oklahoma



Incident Information

The 119 Road Fire began at approximately 2100 hours on 23 March 2017. Several local fire departments responded to the incident which eventually burned 100 acres in a mix of grass, brush, and timber. Despite the time of day, the fire exhibited aggressive fire behavior with rapid rates of spread. Shortly after the initial attack began, three firefighters from a local Volunteer Fire Department became entrapped and burned over. One firefighter sustained minor burn injuries, one firefighter suffered bruised ribs, and their Type 6 Engine was destroyed.

The three firefighters involved began suppressing the fire on the west flank utilizing a Type 6 Engine. Two firefighters were in the cab of the vehicle, one driving and one riding in the passenger seat. The third firefighter was outside of the vehicle, walking on the passenger side using the engine's hardline to extinguish fire. The engine was operating on the fuel-side of the flaming front, moving toward the head.

The Engine Boss reported that the wind shifted suddenly which caused a sudden increase in fire intensity. Heavy smoke conditions at the engine reduced visibility to near zero, which did not allow the Engine Boss to determine an escape route. As smoke and heat conditions near the engine intensified the vehicle's engine and pump motor stalled. The fire then overtook the engine, trapping two firefighters in the cab and one outside of the vehicle.

The fire spread was very rapid with a short residual time at the engine's location, but the engine still caught fire. After the flaming front had passed, the engine's occupants exited the vehicle on the driver's

side and attempted to extinguish the vehicle fire. The Engine Operator was able to survive the passage of the flaming front because he had wet down his immediate area prior to the flaming front's arrival.

Description

- Fire Behavior – Running fire subjected to a wind shift changing direction of spread and increasing fireline intensity.
- Location on Fire – Flank transitioning to head.
- Tactic – Direct attack from fuel-side of flaming front.

Personnel Injured

- Number - 2
- Description – Engine Operator sustained 1st and 2nd degree burns to the right side of his head, face, neck, and elbow. Passenger in cab sustained bruised ribs when trying to exit the engine.
- Both firefighters were treated locally and did not seek advanced medical care.
- PPE – Each firefighter staffing the engine were wearing various components of structural firefighting PPE.
- Shelters Deployed – None of the firefighters were equipped with fire shelters.

Equipment:

- Description – Type 6 Engine.
- Extent of Damage – Total loss.

Fire Weather Conditions on 23 March 2017 at 2130 (approximate time of incident)

Temperature:	75 degrees F.
Relative Humidity:	38%
20' Windspeed:	18 mph, gusting to 25+
Wind Direction:	S
1-hour FDFM*:	6%
100-hour FDFM:	10%
1,000-hour FDFM:	10%

*Fine Dead Fuel Moisture