



North Carolina  
Department of Environment and  
Natural Resources

Michael F. Easley, Governor  
William G. Ross Jr., Secretary



North Carolina  
Division of Forest Resources

Wib Owen, Director

**May 24, 2007**

**To: Jim Prevette, Fire Chief**

**Subject: 24 Hour Preliminary Briefing**

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

**Location: Pender County**

**Date of Occurrence: May 23, 2007**

**Team Leader: Moreland Gueth**

**Mission: Investigate and report on burn over incident which occurred on the Stag Road Fire**

**Activity: Fire control**

**Number of Injured: 1**

**Number of Fatalities: 0**

**Narrative: On May 23, 2007 NC Division of Forest Resources and VFD personnel initial attacked the Stag Road fire in Pender County. Estimate of size at initial attack was 5 acres. Two tractor plows were plowing the Charlie Division in tandem. The lead tractor plow was breaking way for the second tractor plow, which was plowing. A Strike Team Leader and crewman were carrying the blackline behind the tractor plows. After backing up to clean out the fireline, the second forest fire equipment operator (FFEO) resumed forward progress, and at the same time, the fire flared up briefly and entered the open tractor cab. The intensity of the flare up forced the FFEO to jump off of the tractor on the side opposite the fire.**

**The STL and lead tractor plow FFEO went to the aid of the second FFEO. He was transported by EMS to New Hanover Memorial Hospital, where he was examined for injuries. His only injuries were minor burns to the neck, ear and eyebrow. An investigation team has been formed and is investigating the incident. Further reports will be forthcoming.**

**CC: Karen Patterson, NCDFR Safety Officer**