



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Manti-La Sal
National Forest

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File Code: 6730

Date: April 29, 2007

Subject: 72-hour Expanded Report – Pack Creek Prescribed Fire
Terra Torch Accident
Moab District, Manti-La Sal National Forest
April 27, 2007

To: Regional Forester

The Following Information is Preliminary and Subject to Change

Location: Pack Creek Prescribed Fire, Moab District, Manti-La Sal National Forest

Date and Time of occurrence: April 27, 2007; 10:15 AM

Mission: Supporting Prescribed Fire

Activity: Preparing firing equipment for operation

Number injured: 1

Number of fatalities: 0

Property damage: None

Preliminary factual findings: A National Park Service employee, who was trained and experienced in operation of the terra torch, was injured while attempting to resolve a mechanical malfunction with the pump on the torch. The employee had been actively diagnosing a malfunction on the terra torch. He had started the machine to test the system but because the clutch had not engaged he had reached around behind the belt and pulley system in an attempt to tap the housing and free the clutch so that the pump could engage. During this action his finger engaged a moving part which caused a digit amputation to his right ring finger and thrust this hand away and into the metal housing causing damage to adjoining fingers.

Narrative: On Friday morning, April 27, 2007 briefing for the project was 0830-0930 that morning at the Moab BLM Fire Operations Center. The Mesa Verde National Park had sent three agency personnel, and a pull-behind terra torch to assist in black lining of the unit. This crew provided a Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) on the terra torch that we covered along with the USDA Forest Service Region 4 Prescribed Fire JHA. All assigned personnel to the Forest Service project in the Pack Creek drainage were in attendance and signed review of these JHAs. Personnel received assignments and left for the unit traveling south of Moab to the project area. The Mesa Verde National Park employee was injured at approximately 1015 hours (10:15AM) while diagnosing the mechanical operation a terra torch. The terra torch was staged and preparing for the prescribed fire. The injury was to the victim's right ring finger and resulted in a distal digit amputation to his right ring finger and causing tendon damage in another finger.

cc: R4, Regional Safety and Occupational Health Manager



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