

24-Hour Report of Beaver River Fire Engine Rollover / Burnover Oklahoma Forestry Services



THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Date of Report: April 6, 2022

Location: Beaver River Fire
Approx. 11 miles west of Beaver in Beaver County, OK

Date of Occurrence: April 5, 2022

Time of Occurrence: Approximately 1800 hours

Mission: Wildland Fire Suppression – Initial Attack

Number Injured: Two

Number of Fatalities: None

Narrative: On April 5, 2022 during initial attack efforts on the Beaver River Fire, a Balko Volunteer Fire Department engine (Balko 5) was responding to the Beaver River Fire on County Road 22. Poor visibility conditions existed due to smoke and dust. Balko Engine 5, with two occupants, veered slightly off the road onto a gravel shoulder that collapsed. As a result, the engine slid off an embankment approximately six feet in depth and rolled over on its top into the side ditch. Subsequently, an active area of the fire switched directions as it was impacted by strong winds that had shifted from west to northwest. Prior to the fire arriving at the accident scene both occupants were able to self-evacuate. However, both firefighters sustained 1st and 2nd degree burns to their arms and hands as the fire burned past. In addition, one victim possibly suffered a concussion during the vehicle rollover.

Both firefighters were evacuated from the incident by law enforcement and later flown by air ambulance to a burn center in Lubbock, TX. Initially both victims were listed in critical condition. Currently both are conscious and in 'Yellow' status at the burn center.



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