

Rapid Lesson Sharing



Event Type: Fire Detection Patrol on Rural Road Following Rain Event

Date: July 17, 2013

Location: Forest Road 40069—Idaho

Narrative

After several days of thunderstorms and rain, a Type VI Engine was completing Fire Detection Patrols in drainages that had recently received storm activity. Around 1300, the engine was traveling up a steep, narrow drainage on FS Road 40069 when they met two ATVs traveling down-drainage on this road.

The ATV drivers would not yield right-of-way to the engine. The engine driver pulled over onto the shoulder of the road to allow the ATVs to pass. The ATVs were located beside the engine, on the uphill/upslope side, and the drivers continued to refuse to pass.

The engine driver, once again, slowly crept forward. As the vehicle inched ahead, the road shoulder gave out under the outside back tires (down slope side). The driver immediately stopped, put the vehicle in park, and exited the vehicle to assess the situation.

Upon discovering that the vehicle had the potential to continue to slide downslope—or roll—the driver had the passengers exit the vehicle on the driver's side. The driver then secured the scene by dumping the water from the tank, putting the park brake on, hooking the winch cable to an upslope tree, and called for assistance.



Lessons

- 1) No one was injured. The driver and passengers remained calm and safely shut the engine down, exited the engine and secured the scene.
- 2) The driver was licensed to drive government vehicles, specifically the engine. The driver had reviewed the current JHA for driving.
- 3) Increase the driver's knowledge about the right to maintain right-of-way when traveling uphill on Forest/rural roads in a large vehicle (Type VI Engine).
- 4) Collaborate with ATV drivers to ensure compliance with Forest/rural road vehicle travel.
- 5) Following recent rain events, maintain a higher level of situational awareness of Forest/rural road conditions. In this case, rain had softened the shoulders of road, making them more susceptible to failure under the heavy weight of a Type VI Engine loaded with water and fire ready.
- 6) During the AAR we reevaluated our SOP for Detection Patrols and driving on Forest/rural roads following weather events that may change road conditions and our safe driving environment.

Submitted By:

Module/Crew Overhead

Do you have a Rapid Lesson to share?
Click this button:

Share
Your Lessons