

# **GILA NATIONAL FOREST**



# **NEWS**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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5:45 p.m.

## **SMOKEJUMPER INJURY**

### **24-Hour Preliminary Briefing**

**Location:** Gila National Forest, USDA Forest Service, Southwestern Region

**Date of occurrence:** June 25, 2007

**Time of occurrence:** 11:45 a.m.

**Investigation Team leader:** Michael Williams, USDA Forest Service

**Mission:** Conduct an investigation of the serious accident involving Forest Service smokejumpers, which occurred on the Gila National Forest, June 25, 2007.

**Activity:** Operational fire jump, while responding to the Woodland wildland fire use (WFU) in the Gila Wilderness.

**Number injured:** 2

**Narrative:** Two smokejumpers were injured during an operational fire jump on Monday, June 25th, while responding to the Woodland WFU in the Gila Wilderness. One smokejumper sustained a minor first aid injury while the second smokejumper sustained multiple injuries and was transported by helicopter to Gila Regional Medical Center in Silver City, NM. After being assessed at the hospital in Silver City, the patient was transported by helicopter to a trauma center in El Paso, Texas.

**NOTE:** The Gila National Forest will continue to honor the family's request in withholding the name of the smokejumper and type of injuries. The injuries are not life threatening.

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