

72 Hour Expanded Report Gladiator Fire Near Miss

To: USFS, Region 3, Prescott Forest Supervisor

Subject: Expanded (72 Hour) Report

Date: May 22, 2012

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

LOCATION: Bradshaw Ranger District, Prescott National Forest, Prescott, AZ



DATE OF OCCURRENCE: May 20th, 2012

TIME OF OCCURRENCE: ~ 0345 hours

LOCAL AGENCY ADMINISTRATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Linda Jackson, Bradshaw District Ranger

MISSION: Wildland fire suppression operations

ACTIVITY: Firing and holding operations

NUMBER OF INJURIES: 0

NUMBER OF FATALITIES: 0

PROPERTY DAMAGE: 0

INCIDENT SUMMARY: The Gladiator Fire was initially detected on May 13th at 1100 hours near the community of Crown King. The human caused fire originated from a structure fire located on private property and quickly spread onto the Prescott National Forest. The incident is currently being managed by a Southwest Area Type 1 Incident Management Team.

In the early morning hours of May 20th, while conducting a firing operation, three members of a Type II IA Handcrew retreated along their escape route towards their identified safety zone due to an increase in fire behavior and a shift in wind direction.

While disengaging, the three crewmembers made the decision to discard tools and line gear due to poor visibility, smoky conditions, steep terrain and a perceived imminent threat to life. After discarding their line gear the three crew members continued up the handline with fire shelters, hand tools, and PPE to the safety zone uninjured.

Once at the safety zone all crewmembers were accounted for and their wellbeing was evaluated. The Division Group Supervisor was notified of the incident and followed the IMT notification protocols. Due to subsequent firing operations and an increase in fire activity, tools and line gear were ultimately destroyed due to the inability to retrieve the equipment in a timely manner.

Based on the nature of this incident, the Prescott National Forest, the IMT and a Regional Review Team conducted a post incident After Action Review (AAR) and provided Critical Incident Stress Management (Peer Support).

Through the AAR process Fire Fighters identified the importance of practicing and following their annual training to include: crew accountability, inner crew communications, crew disengagement protocols, utilization of trigger points and maintaining Lookouts, Communication, Escape Routes and Safety Zones (LCES).

It should be noted these Fire Fighters reacted and responded to a perceived threat appropriately based on their training.

cc: Corbin Newman, USFS Region 3 Regional Forester
Betty Mathews, USFS Prescott National Forest, Forest Supervisor

Linda Jackson, Bradshaw District Ranger, Prescott National Forest