

Interim (72-Hour) Summary Report



Alaska Division of Forestry

Rocky D. Ansell, Safety Officer

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Palmer, AK 99645

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Wildland Firefighter Injury

Date of Accident / Injury:

June 19, 2011

**Hastings Fire
Fairbanks, Alaska**

This report is intended to provide a factual description based upon information obtained during the initial stages the accident investigation conducted within the first 72 hours post accident. It is published and distributed within a short time frame and may be subject to revision as further investigation is conducted and other reports and documents are received.

Synopsis

At approximately 1820 hours (ADST) on June 16, 2009 while conducting mop-up operations on the Hastings Fire, near Fairbanks, Alaska a member of the ZigZag IHC was struck by a tree. A medium helicopter that was working the fire was staffed with medical personnel and the injured crew member was extricated from the site and flown directly to Fairbanks Memorial Hospital. After initial treatment the crew member was flown to Providence Hospital in Anchorage for additional tests and treatment. He was released from the hospital on 06/17, evaluated again on 06/18 and released for travel to his home unit.

Narrative

A member of the ZigZag IHC was assigned to mop-up operations on Division R of the Hastings fire. While working in the area, a tree with a burned out root system fell and made contact with the crew member. A medium helicopter working the fire was quickly loaded with medical personnel, while other crew personnel worked on DP13 (which was near the injured crew member) and established an LZ which allowed for the rapid extraction of the injured crew member. Upon arrival at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital he was treated for head, shoulder and rib injuries. After initial evaluation and treatment he was medivaced to Providence Hospital in Anchorage, Alaska in the company of the ZigZag IHC Assistant Crew Superintendent for additional tests and treatment.

An Interagency Accident Investigation Team comprised of the members listed below continues to further analyze the events of this incident.

Rocky D. Ansell, Statewide Health & Safety Officer
State of Alaska, Division of Forestry

Gary Lehnhausen, Fire Safety & Training Specialist
Alaska R10 Office, US Forrest Service

Dave Hade, SOF2 Hastings Fire & Technical Specialist
Bureau of Land Management / Alaska Fire Service