

HOTSHOTS INVOLVED IN VEHICLE ACCIDENT IN NEW MEXICO

JUNE 30 -- SOCORRO, NM: A hotshot crew departing the Davenport Fire near Datil was involved in a vehicle accident with an RV near Socorro this morning. The driver of the RV was fatally injured.

Six of the Bitterroot Hotshots from Montana were injured and were transported to hospitals in Socorro and Albuquerque. Four of the 'shots were treated and released in nearby Socorro, and the other two were transported to Albuquerque where one is in critical condition tonight and another is reportedly in guarded condition. There were other injuries in the RV, but details tonight are sketchy.

The Bitterroot Hotshots were reportedly on their way to their last shift on a fire on the nearby Cibola National Forest when the wreck occurred.

[KRQE-TV](#) reported that the crew buggy and an RV collided west of Socorro, killing the RV's driver and injuring crewmembers in a head-on collision about 9:30 a.m.

The driver of the eastbound RV reportedly lost control of the vehicle after a tire blowout before the wreck, swerving into the westbound lane and slamming into the hotshots' vehicle. The first hotshot crew vehicle swerved and missed the RV, but the second one was hit head-on by the out-of-control RV. Two ambulances and a lifeguard helicopter responded to the wreck. The driver of the RV was pronounced dead at the scene of the crash.

The Davenport Fire was contained Monday at about 200 acres on the Cibola National Forest in west-central New Mexico.