



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington
Office

14th and Independence Ave. SW.
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File code: 6730

Date: September 4, 2003

Route to:

Subject: Preliminary (24-Hour) Briefing

To: Chief

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Location: Lightning Complex (Haas Ridge Fire). Incident occurred approximately 9 miles north of Imnaha, Oregon on county road 735 (Dug Bar Road) bordering the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.

Date of occurrence: August 28, 2003

Time of occurrence: Approximately 1915 Pacific Daylight Time

Team leader: Jean Lavell # 541-523-1230

Chief Investigator: Don Crompton # 541-523-1427

Mission: Wildland Fire Suppression

Activity: Demobilization of the Pacific Northwest contract twenty-person crew, Strike Back # 2, from Lightning Spike Camp to Lightning Complex Incident Command Post.

Number injured: 5

Number of fatalities: 0

Property damage (such as to vessels, equipment, and structures): Totaled crew cab Ford Pickup and unknown quantity of damaged fire equipment.

Narrative: On August 28, 2003, at approximately 1915, five individuals from the Pacific Northwest contract twenty-person crew, StrikeBack # 2, were injured when their Ford crew cab pickup rolled. StrikeBack # 2 was working on the Lightning Complex (Haas Ridge Fire) on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest with the Blue Mountain Interagency Type II Fire Team. The crew had been released from the Lightning Spike Camp to travel to Lightning Complex Incident Command Post located in Joseph, Oregon to be demobed the following morning. The crew had traveled approximately 10 miles from the Lightning Spike Camp when for an unknown reason the vehicle left the Dug Bar (County Road 735) and rolled approximately 300' down a steep slope. Although two of the crew had been ejected from the vehicle, all occupants were thought to have been wearing seat belts. Two crewmembers were transported by helicopter to Sacred Heart Hospital in Spokane, Washington and three were transported by ambulance to Wallowa Memorial Hospital in Enterprise, Oregon. This incident is being investigated by the Wallowa Sheriff's Office. A USDA Forest Service LEO is assisting the Sheriff's Office.

cc:

Safety Manager (at the level authorizing the investigation)



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