



United States Department of the Interior

United States Fish and Wildlife Service

Southeast Regional Office

1875 Century Boulevard

Atlanta, Georgia 30345



24 HOUR REPORT / FATALITY ON MACKAY ISLAND NWR

To: John Segar, Chief of Fire Management Branch, US Fish and Wildlife Service

Subject: Preliminary (24-Hour) Report – Wildfire and Fatality at Mackay Island NWR

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

LOCATION: Mackay Island NWR, Currituck County, NC

DATE OF OCCURRENCE: March 3, 2013

TIME OF OCCURRENCE: approximately 1600

TEAM LEADER: N/A

ACTIVITY: Initial attack on wildfire at Mackay Island NWR

NUMBER OF INJURIES: N/A

NUMBER OF FATALITIES: One

PROPERTY DAMAGE (such as to vessels, equipment, and structures):

NARRATIVE: I was contacted by Great Dismal Swamp NWR Refuge Manager Chris Lowie at 6:45 PM on 3/3/13 concerning a wildfire on Mackay Island NWR that occurred earlier in the afternoon. Chris provided me the contact information for the NC Forest Service, who were aware of the details. NC Forest Service District Forester Mike Petruncio provided the following information:

The wildfire was 15-16 acres in size with 15 acres burning on the refuge. The Knotts Island Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) responded. While fighting the fire, the Knotts Island VFD fire chief experienced a medical emergency. He was transported to the hospital and was pronounced dead on arrival. The

Virginia Beach Fire Department completed extinguishing the fire. The cause of the fire is currently under investigation by the NC Forest Service Law Enforcement Division.

/s/ Scott Lanier, Acting Project Leader, Coastal NC Refuges Complex

cc: Chief, Division of Safety and Health
Serious Accident Investigation Team Leader (for the Official Case File)
Fire Management Branch Safety Manager (if a Wildland Fire related accident)