



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Eastern Region

626 East Wisconsin Ave.
Suite 800
Milwaukee, WI 53202

File Code: 6730

Date: May 11, 2005

Route To:

Subject: Preliminary (24-Hour) Briefing

To: Randy Moore, Skip Starkey, and Michael Anderson

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Location: Chippewa National Forest, Deer River – Marcel Ranger District Section 28, Township 145, Range 26

Date of occurrence: May 5, 2005

Time of occurrence: 1400

Team Leader: Thomas G. Wagner, Forest Supervisor, White Mountain National Forest

Mission: Investigate accident involving injury to an employee on the Mississippi Meadow Prescribed Burn

Activity: Team Leader arrived at Deer River Ranger District at 1500 on May 10, 2005, and met with Forest Supervisor, District Ranger, and District Fire Management Officer (Injured Employee). Remainder of the four person team is expected on scene by 1500 on May 11, 2005. Team will visit accident fire site and begin interviews today.

Number of injured: One employee received first degree and some limited second degree burns to cheeks, nose, ear and hands.

Property damage: Escaped prescribed fire moved off of National Forest lands onto tribal lands along east flank (Approximately 150 acres).

Narrative: Prescribed fire operations were occurring within prescription in meadows along the Mississippi River. At approximately 1345, on May 5, 2005, a spot occurred in northwest corner of the fire. While containing this spot personnel noticed a second spot. The Burn Boss left holding crews to assess the second spot walking along the western flank to see if this spot would be held by an oxbow in the meadow. A shift in the fire moved the spot fire toward the burn boss who made a decision to go back through 4 foot flame lengths rather than move away from the fire and get caught in a potential larger flame front.

/s/ Thomas G. Wagner
THOMAS G. WAGNER
Team Leader

