



United States Department of the Interior  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Idaho State Office  
1387 South Vinnell Way  
Boise, Idaho 83709-1657



July 19, 2014

To: Peter J. Ditton  
Associate State Director

From: Brian Achziger  
Accident Investigation Team Leader

Subject: 72-Hour Expanded Report, Richfield Fire

**Number and Type of Injuries: 0**

**Number and Name of Fatality Victim(s): 0**

**Narrative:** On July 16, 2014 at approximately 1227 a Richfield Rural Fire Department (RFD) Type 4 engine was burned over and destroyed after becoming stuck while attempting a frontal assault on the Richfield Fire. Crew members moved to a nearby safety zone before the fire reached the engine. The following is a timeline of events leading up to the burn over of the Richfield RFD engine.

At 1138 hours on July 16, 2014 the Richfield Fire was reported to South Central Idaho Interagency Dispatch Center (SCC). The fire was reported to be on private land adjacent to Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands approximately 5 miles southwest of Richfield, Idaho along Highway 26. Richfield RFD, Shoshone Fire Department (SFD), and BLM resources were dispatched to the fire.

At 1138 the Twin Falls District Fire Management Officer (FMO) and Assistant Fire Management Officer (AFMO) were on scene and requested a BLM engine through SCC due to the proximity of BLM land. The FMO and AFMO were originally on their way to the Preacher Fire located along Highway 26 farther to the east.

At 1153 the BLM engine arrived on scene and asked SCC if they had contact with the Richfield RFD engine, SCC replied "negative", SIRCOM (Southern Idaho Regional Communications Center) said the Richfield RFD engine was responding. The BLM Engine Captain assumed the role of Incident Commander (IC).

At 1155 the Shoshone Fire Department engine arrived on scene and received a briefing from the IC and began fire suppression at the heel of the fire (south side of the fire).

At 1158 the FMO and AFMO reported to SCC that the Richfield RFD engine and Richfield RFD Water Tender were on scene near their location. The Richfield RFD engine initially engaged the fire from the highway near the head of the fire. No communication was established between the IC and

the Richfield RFD engine. The Richfield RFD engine then drove north along Highway 26 to a two track road in an attempt to access the head of the fire.

Between 1210 - 1215 the IC was informed by the AFMO that Richfield RFD engine was on scene and attempting to access the head of the fire. The IC asked the AFMO to establish communication with the Richfield RFD engine.

Between 1220 - 1225 the AFMO informed the IC that Richfield RFD engine was stuck in the "green" ahead of the fire. The BLM engine attempted to assist the Richfield RFD engine however the Richfield engine was wedged on a large rock and the fire was spreading towards their direction.

At 1227 SCC was notified by the IC that the engine was stuck, it was described as a total loss and the two crew members were in the safety zone with the FMO.

At 1358 all active flame was knocked down.

On July 16, 2014 at 1500, the Richfield Fire was contained at 27 acres.

All times are approximate.

**Action Taken to Date:**

The BLM has an investigation team in place and is working with the agencies involved.

//s// Brian Achziger

cc:

John Glenn

Michelle Ryerson

Mike Morcom

June Shoemaker

Janette Peterson