

24-HOUR BRIEF

VIRGINIA LAKE ENTRAPMENT/BURNOVER

At about 4:00 PM on August 13, 2001, a line scout, Richard Epperson, and contract dozer operator, John Christie, were entrapped on the Virginia Lake Fire on the Colville Indian Reservation. They retreated into a meadow, used the dozer to clear a deployment area and deployed their shelters. Both individuals were in their shelters for a period of 30 minutes. As soon as the fire front passed the individuals were picked up by helicopter and transported off the fire. Both were treated and released for minor smoke inhalation at the local hospital. Damage to the dozer was minimal. Another dozer in the area retreated to a safety zone as the fire burned past but did not have to utilize a fire shelter.

A National Incident/Accident investigation team led by Roy Doore has been assigned to investigate the entrapment/burnover. The team has been to the site of the burnover and is in the process of reviewing records and completing interviews.

A Critical Incident Stress Team has also been requested.

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