



**File Code:** 6700

**Date:** August 22, 2016

**Route To:**

**Subject:** Withers Fire Engine Incident 72 Hour Report

**To:** Ron Dunton,

Location: Withers Fire, Lakeview District BLM, approximately 3 miles from Paisley, OR

Date of Occurrence: August 17, 2016

Time of Occurrence: Approximately 2230 hrs.

Activity: Holding during a burnout operation

Number of injures: 0

Number of fatalities: 0

Equipment damage: Scorch damage to Forest Service Type 6 engine

Narrative: On August 17, 2016, a Type 6 Engine with an experienced operator was scorched along the driver's side while conducting a nighttime burnout operation near Paisley, Oregon. The engine and two firefighters were tending to fire brands and hotspots along a road which also served as a containment line. Once engaged, the firefighters received increasing amounts of smoke as the fire neared. Several attempts to back away from oncoming smoke and flames failed as the vehicle operator navigated in rapidly deteriorating conditions. The operator was eventually able to drive forward out of harm's way. The operator and all other personnel on scene escaped without injury, though the engine sustained damage from the fire. An FLA team was mobilized on August 18. Their work is ongoing.

  
KEVIN W. LARKIN  
District Ranger

cc: E Lynn Burkett; Eric Watrud; Ian Ritchie

