

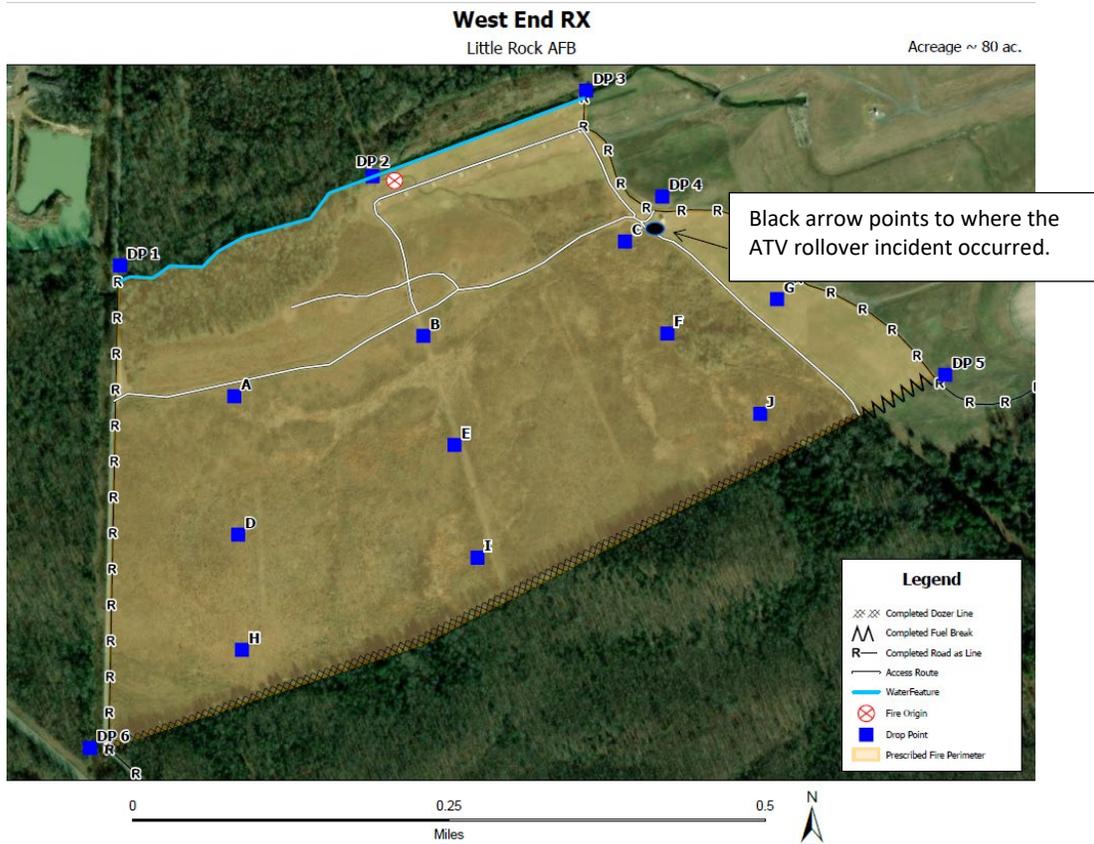
Rapid Lesson Sharing

Event Type: ATV Rollover

Date: February 18, 2026

Location: West End Prescribed Fire; Little Rock Air Force Base; Jacksonville, Arkansas

West End Prescribed Fire ATV Rollover Incident



West End Prescribed Fire Briefing

On February 18, 2026, at 0930, about a dozen personnel from the Bureau of Land (BLM), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and Little Rock Air Force Base (LRAFB) gathered for the initial briefing for the Pollinator and West End Prescribed Fire (Rx) units. The plans were thoroughly reviewed. The same strategies for Holding and Firing as established the previous evening were maintained. Every resource expressed confidence with moving forward. At approximately 1120, a test fire was initiated on the Pollinator Unit, completing that burn by 1300. Both the Burn Boss and Holding Boss agreed that the Pollinator Unit was secure, with no remaining holding concerns. To ensure continued safety, Fire & Emergency Services (FES) designated one UTV and three personnel to patrol the area.

Following this, resources regrouped and convoyed to the West End Rx, arriving around 1340. This transition allowed ample time for resources to scout the site and finalize preparations across the open range. The personnel roster and operational plan remained consistent from the previous Pollinator Rx, ensuring a smooth continuation of the prescribed fire activities. Once everyone was comfortable, resources gathered south of Drop Point 3 (DP#3) on the road to begin briefing on the West End Rx. The briefing for the 90-acre West End Rx ended at 1415 hours,

and the fence was reported as not charged. Despite this, the briefing emphasized that the fence should be treated as energized.

The Firing Boss Trainee received instructions on firing patterns and expectations from the Burn Boss. Afterward, the Burn Boss was repositioned at DP#4 (see map on previous page).

Timeline of Events

Incident Occurrence

Burning on the West End Rx began at approximately 1420 hours. After securing the north end of the burn unit and continuing ignitions southward along the east line (from DP#3 toward DP#5), operations reached an area where fuels were interrupted by a road and an adjacent structure (near DP#4).

The Firing Boss Trainee drove from DP#4 to DP#5 on the west side of the fence line, igniting along the way. The Burn Boss radioed the Firing Boss and Holding Boss, asking if someone was available to drag a drip torch. The Holding Boss then sent the LRAFB Natural Resource Wildland Fire Program Manager to assist dragging fire from DP#4 to DP#5 on the road.

Around 1430 hours, the Firing Boss Trainee drove an ATV ahead to find possible ignition areas. On the way back, he ran the ATV onto a steep slope between a building and the electric fence. The ATV tipped onto its side into the fence, trapping the Firing Boss Trainee beneath it.

The Burn Boss sees the Holding Boss moving quickly behind this structure located west of DP#4, yelling: "Rollover!" The Burn Boss immediately radioed nearby units to converge on this location and informed FES to: "Send EMS ASAP."

The Burn Boss radioed to cease all fire activity. Fearing the worst due to the presence of drip torch mix and its proximity to the electric fence, the Burn Boss instructed to bring the Type 6 engine from DP#3 for additional first aid supplies and a fire extinguisher.

The Assistant Module Lead, along with another team member, promptly assisted the Firing Boss Trainee. Together, they elevated the ATV sufficiently to allow the Firing Boss Trainee to safely extricate himself from beneath it. The Firing Boss Trainee then proceeded to receive an evaluation from FES personnel at the scene.

The Assistant Module Lead then took the nozzle from the water tank mounted on the flipped ATV and extinguished the ground fire that was backing toward the ATV.

Immediate Response

The Burn Boss communicated the incident via text message to regional AFMOs, the Avon Park Module Lead, and the Midwest Regional FMO. The response was immediate, with FES personnel arriving to manage the situation. Upon receiving further instructions from the Regional FMO, arrangements were made to conduct an After-Action Review (AAR).

Once the injured firefighter was extracted by FES and transported by the Jacksonville Fire Department to Springhill



Top – Where the ATV rolled over on the uneven ground into the electric fence.

Bottom – The ATV's route to where this rollover incident occurred.

Baptist Hospital for medical evaluation, the Burn Boss directed all resources to DP#4 for the AAR, which concluded at 1502 hours.

All crew members confirmed that they were *"Good to Go"* for prescribed fire operations. The Burn Boss offered Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) support if needed and the crew said they would reach out if necessary.

Follow-Up

At 1734 hours, the injured firefighter notified the Burn Boss of his discharge from the hospital and confirmed his availability to fully resume duties the next day.

Lessons

- ❖ Clear instructions were given during the West End Prescribed Fire briefing to treat the electric fence as live.
- ❖ Ensure all electrical components are de-energized.
- ❖ FES ensured clear communication between the Burn Boss and staff by providing a dedicated radio.
- ❖ Update all radios with the most up-to-date radio frequencies.
- ❖ ATV helmets must meet Snell SA2010, SA2015, or DOT certification
- ❖ When operating an ATV on uneven terrain use caution. Mission focus, operational tempo, and other factors increase our tendency to want to go faster during travel—fight this tendency.

This RLS was submitted by:

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