



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Papago Agency
P.O. Box 490
Sells, AZ 85634



PRELIMINARY (72-HOUR) REPORT

FROM: Robert LaCapa, Serious Accident Investigation Team Leader

TO: Lyle Carlile, BIA, National Interagency Fire Center, Fire Director

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

LOCATION: Montezuma Fire, Sells AZ

DATE OF OCCURRENCE: June 8, 2012

TIME OF OCCURRENCE: Approximately 0800 hours (Arizona Time)

TEAM LEADER (POSITION): Incident Commander, Type 3

ACTIVITY: Wildland Fire Suppression

NUMBER & TYPE OF INJURY: One fatality, two hospitalized with non-life threatening injuries

PRELIMINARY FACT FINDINGS: The Montezuma Fire located 20 miles southeast of Sells Arizona on the Papago Agency started on May 30th was 80% contained with an estimated size of 1700 acres on June 8th.

A Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Type V engine with three personnel aboard were traveling to the fire when the engine left the roadway and overturned. One individual was fatally injured, and two were transported to a local hospital with non-life threatening injuries. One firefighter was treated and released the same day, and the second remains hospitalized.

The engine from Fort Yuma Agency was traveling south of Sells, Arizona on the Bureau of Indian (BIA) Indian Service Route road system through the Papago Agency on the Tohono O'odham Indian Reservation in southwest Arizona. The engine was in a Task Force convoy configuration to begin an operational period on the south end of the fire. Approximately 5 miles south of town, the engine left the roadway and overturned coming to a rest on the shoulder of the road. Emergency First Aid was rendered immediately by qualified Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) from an engine in the group to the injured.

A Critical Incident Stress Management Team was ordered on June 8th, and assisted fire resources, and other affected persons connected to the incident. The team was released the following day, and is available for follow-up meetings as necessary. A Serious Accident Investigation Team (SAIT) is in place.

SUBMITTED BY: Robert LaCapa, Serious Accident Investigation Team Leader