



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

George Washington & Jefferson
National Forests

5162 Valleypointe Parkway
Roanoke, VA 24019-3050
540/265-5100

File Code: 6700

Date: May 18, 2015

Route To: Darryl Harley

Subject: George Washington & Jefferson National Forests Firefighter Receives Electrical Burns from Low Hanging Power lines

To: Regional Forester

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

LOCATION: Warm Springs Ranger District on the George Washington & Jefferson National Forests, Bath County, Virginia.

DATE OF OCCURRENCE: May 15, 2015

TIME OF OCCURRENCE: 1713 Hours

ACTIVITY: Type 4 Wildland Fire on National Forest

NUMBER OF INJURIES: One

NUMBER OF FATALITIES: None

PROPERTY DAMAGE: None

NARRATIVE: Job Corps Hand Crew was performing mop-up operations within one chain of the fire perimeter. Crew was aware of a dead bear three chains away along the power line and walked over to observe the bear. One of the crew members walked between the bear's location and the low hanging power line and received electrical burns. The crew member was triaged on site by an EMT firefighter. The crew member was transferred by ambulance to a local hospital and then air lifted to a regional burn unit. Notifications were made to Forest Supervisor, SACC/F&AM, Regional Forester and the Washington Office.

Since the incident, the low hanging power line has been repaired by the power company. The injured firefighter is being treated at a Regional Burn Center located in Richmond, Virginia. The firefighter has been improving since the incident occurred. The injured firefighter will be in the hospital from one to three weeks, depending on recovery.

/s/ JoBeth Brown

Acting Forest Supervisor

