



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Regional Office

626 E. Wisconsin Avenue
Suite 800
Milwaukee, WI 53202

File Code: 6730

Date: March 21, 2006

Route To:

Subject: Expanded (72-hour – post team arrival) Briefing: Camden Fire,
Salem Ranger District, Mark Twain National Forest, March 21, 2006

To: Randy Moore, Regional Forester

**THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO
CHANGE**

Injured employee: firefighter (militia)

Preliminary factual findings: The injured individual was participating as a holding crew member on a wildfire. He was proceeding to one of two planned safety zones when he entered an area of radiant heat along a bladed woods road that was serving as a contingency escape route. His planned route to safety may have been compromised.

Narrative: The subject firefighter and 2 other firefighters were waiting along the bladed woods road for a dozer line to be anchored in preparation for holding and back burning. The fire began advancing toward the firefighters. The employee and a second firefighter were treating small “spot” fires along the bladed woods road just opposite the side where the fire was advancing. When advised by the third firefighter to leave the area due to the advancing fire, he moved back toward the third firefighter. He encountered an area of radiant heat from the fire as he proceeded. He was wearing full PPE including goggles and shroud, which he used. He received 2nd degree burns in an area around his nostrils. The other firefighter headed back along the woods road toward the trucks.

The investigation team reviewed the fire scene and interviewed employees on the fire. The team has not yet determined whether this situation met the definition of entrapment.

No immediate general safety alerts appear to be necessary. For Missouri and Arkansas, weather conditions over the past several months have created the potential for periodic erratic and unusual fire behaviors that should be closely monitored.

The team will complete the information gathering phase by March 22, 2006, incorporating a peer review component as part of this process and provide the final report with factual and management sections by May 6, 2006.

PAUL M. STOCKINGER
Team Leader

cc: Regional Safety Manager – Beth June
National Safety Officer – Jeff Scussel

