

Firefighter's Worst Nightmare Comes True

WKYT 27 NEWSFIRST & WYMT Mountain News, March 24, 2004

The dangers of fighting fires become a reality for one eastern Kentucky firefighter.

Forest fire season is now in full swing and the dangers that go along with it hit home over the weekend after a fire fighter was seriously injured while trying to put out a forest fire.

It's a scene that these forest rangers don't like to revisit. The sight of a terrible accident that happened while forest rangers like Adam McGuire were out doing their job. Putting out an accidentally set fire when their worst nightmare came true. Firefighter John Michael McManus was almost finished. He was just backsetting the fire when he lost his footing on the top of a cliff and fell down the 30 foot embankment. Landing on his back, barely able to radio for help.

McGuire then rushed to his co-workers side and says he found him in a mangled mess. Forest rangers say it brings to light the everyday dangers that they face.

McManus broke his back and his arm in the fall and doctors are still not sure of the extent of his injuries.

John Michael McManus went through an exploratory surgery on his back at Central Baptist Hospital in Lexington.