



72-Hour Expanded Report Cover Letter and Format

July 12, 2013

To: Steve Ellis and David Groeschl
From: E.Lynn Burkett, SAIT Team Leader
Subject: 72-Hour Expanded Report, Pardee Fire Fatality

This report contains additional information from the 24-Hour Report.

Name of fatality victim: Dennis Long

Type of Injury: Company Contract, Fire only Dozer Operator is reported to have suffered a fatal heart attack

Mission: Wildland Fire

Narrative: Lightning sparked the Pardee Fire approximately 0700 hours on Monday July 8, 2013. The fire is located approximately 8 miles northwest of Kamiah, Idaho. The terrain is steep and rugged with approximately a 70 to 80 percent grade. The BLM is the jurisdictional agency while Idaho Department of Lands provides fire and suppression protection under the Statewide Cooperative Fire Protection Offset Agreement. The victim, Dennis Long, was engaged in downhill line construction during initial attack. The Dozer Boss (DOZB) spoke with the victim, stating that they should disengage the fire, that the slope had become too steep and they should return upslope to the safety zone. The DOZB began hiking uphill scouting a clear path with the expectation the dozer would pass him soon. When the DOZB heard the dozer periodically powering down and starting up he began hiking down slope. When the DOZB returned, the dozer had been moved further down slope in steeper terrain and the victim had begun terracing up slope to get the dozer out. The DOZB believed that the victim and dozer

were making slow progress up slope and began searching for the easiest path out. When the DOZB heard the dozer idle, he returned to find the dozer idling on approximately a 70% slope with the victim in the seat. The DOZB climbed on the dozer finding the victim pale and unresponsive. The DOZB began CPR. A call was made for emergency assistance. Approximately 15-20 minutes later, smokejumpers, some trained as Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT), responded to the call and arrived to find the DOZB performing CPR. The smokejumpers took over performing CPR while in transport by the inmate crew to drop point 2 where they met Emergency Medical Services "air ambulance". The victim was released to the sheriff's office/coroner who transported the victim to a local funeral home. Location of the fatality is under BLM jurisdiction. Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) and the BLM are conducting a joint Interagency Serious Accident Investigation.

An official request has been submitted to the Idaho County Sheriff's department for their report. The Idaho County Medical Examiner has completed the autopsy. The SAIT has requested a copy.

Action Taken to Date: An interagency Serious Accident Investigation Team is in place. The team received a Delegation of Authority from Idaho State Director, Steve Ellis and Idaho State Forester, David Groeschl. They have completed most interviews, collected documentation and have visited the site where the fatality occurred.

The intent of the investigation is to learn from the events leading up to this accident and to help prevent future occurrences.

//s// E.Lynn Burkett, Team Leader/Co-Team Leader

cc: Michelle Ryerson, Safety & Occupational Health Manager, National Fire & Aviation