



Tohono O'odham Nation Office of the Chairman & Vice Chairwoman

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Ned Norris, Jr.
Chairman

Wavalene M. Romero
Vice Chairwoman



PRESS RELEASE

Friday, June 8, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Matt Smith, (520) 321-1111

FIREFIGHTER LOSES LIFE IN THE LINE OF DUTY

SELLS, Ariz. – At approximately 8:00 AM this morning, three firefighters working on the Montezuma Fire currently burning in the Baboquivari Mountains west of Tucson, were involved in a single vehicle rollover while en route to the fire. One passenger was pronounced dead on the scene. The driver and other passenger were taken to the Sells Hospital with non-life threatening injuries and were later released.

The accident took place on Federal Route 19, near Milepost 22. The firefighters were driving a type six vehicle, which is a large truck that includes a self-contained field firefighting apparatus.

The deceased individual's name is being withheld pending notification of next of kin. The individual was working for the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, which is the agency overseeing the management of the fire.

Following the incident, all firefighting personnel were recalled from the fire line, which is normal procedure when there is a fatality. A critical incident stress management team specializing in field trauma has been called in to provide assistance.

Tohono O'odham Nation Chairman Ned Norris, Jr. said *"This is a tragic incident that reminds us that firefighters risk their lives every day to protect the public. The hearts of the Tohono O'odham go out to this individual, his family and friends and to all personnel fighting the Montezuma Fire."*

The Montezuma Fire has burned for 10 days on the west side of the Baboquivari Mountains on the Tohono O'odham Nation. The fire has burned a total of 1,700 acres and is 90 percent contained.

EDITOR'S NOTE: For further information on the Montezuma Fire or details involving Incident Management Team, please contact Jonetta Trued, the Public Information Officer assigned to the Montezuma Fire. She can be reached at 520-400-1007.

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