

Ringling Fire Burnover – February 17, 2017

Location: **Vicinity of Ringling, Oklahoma**

Activity Description: Ringling Fire & Rescue personnel were engaged in wildland fire suppression on the afternoon of February 17, 2017. The fire was exhibiting aggressive fire behavior in grass fuels. The injured firefighter and damaged engine were attacking the fire from the heel progressing in the black on the flank of the fire.

Initially, the firefighters attempted to gain access to the fire through unburned fuels and became stuck in soft soils. They hailed another engine to assist them and in the process the engine operator removed his protective nomex hood. When freed, they re-engaged the fire working a flank from the black progressing toward the head of the fire. A shift in wind direction resulted in a change in spread direction and increasing fire behavior. The engine driver became disoriented and drove through flames into unburned fuels. The engine operator, who was riding in a cage “the firefighter hole” on the engine, was forced to abandon the engine when it became stuck in soft soil. When he left the engine he was forced to escape through a flaming front. The engine operator sustained 2nd and 3rd degree burns to the left side of his head, neck and face.

Description:

- Fire Behavior – Active flanking fire subjected to a wind shift changing direction of spread and increasing fireline intensity
- Location on Fire – Flank transitioning to Head
- Tactic – Direct (Attack from Black)

Personnel Injured:

- Number - 1
- Description – Engine Operator sustained 2nd & 3rd degree burns to the left side of his head, face and neck.
- Prognosis
- First-Aid – Fellow firefighters immediately administered 1st-Aid and requested an ambulance. Approximately 1 hour elapsed from the incident occurrence to arrival at hospital. Upon examination at the hospital, the engine operator was referred to a burn center in Oklahoma City. The firefighter was released the following day with no damage to the airway.
- PPE – Firefighter was wearing bunker gear. Removed his nomex hood.
- Shelter Deployed – No. No shelter.

Equipment:

- Description – Type 6 Engine.
- Extent of Damage – Sustained burn and scorch damage to front left and front of engine.

Weather/Fuels:

STID	TAIR	RELH	WSPD	RAIN_24H	BI	SC	ERC	IC	ONE	TEN	HUND	THOU	HERB	WOODY	KBDI
RING	68°F	41%	17 mph	0.00 in.	67	58	15	35	6	9	15	10	54	94	42

