



NEWS RELEASE

Lolo National Forest

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United States
Department of Agriculture

Forest Service
Lolo National Forest
Building 24, Fort Missoula
Missoula, Montana 59804

For Immediate Release

Date: September 30, 2008

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Motorcycle, Fire Engine Collide

Missoula, MT. – A fire engine from the Missoula Ranger District collided with a motorcycle on Miller Creek road near Hollowman Saddle about 12 miles southeast of Missoula September 28. The driver of the motorcycle slid off his vehicle before it struck the engine and neither driver was injured. The driver of the fire engine reported that he was unable to avoid the motorcycle because it came around a corner traveling very fast and in the middle of the road. The motorcyclist involved in the incident was cited by the Montana Highway Patrol for careless driving and no motorcycle endorsement. The Trooper who investigated the incident reported that the motorcyclist was one of about ten riders who were traveling together.

The fire engine was in the area to support a prescribed burn near Hollowman Saddle and was traveling the speed limit for the road, 30 miles per hour.

The Miller Creek Road is a curvy, dirt road with limited sight distance in many locations. Forest Service law enforcement officers want to remind recreation users that they may encounter traffic on even the most remote Forest Service roads. And they point out that unpaved forest roads require constant vigilance to safe driving due to limited sight distance, narrow road widths, and no road shoulders. Those conditions make it unlikely that even the best drivers will be able to avoid fast moving traffic that is traveling on the wrong side of the road, according to law enforcement officers. The Montana Highway Patrol also noted that motorcycle and ATV riders are required to have a driver's license and appropriate operator endorsements.

For more information, contact the Lolo National Forest Public Affairs Office at (406) 329-1024.

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