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FROM : National Wildfire Coordinating Group

REPLY TO : NWCG@nifc.gov

DATE : 04/26/2010

SUBJECT : SAFETY BULLETIN : Birthday Fire - Preliminary 72 Hour Report



Birthday_Fire 72_hr_report.doc



**United States Department of Interior
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
BIA CROW AGENCY, MT**

PRELIMINARY (72-HOUR) REPORT

FROM: Judith Gray, BIA, Crow Indian Agency Superintendent

TO: Lyle Carlile, BIA, National Interagency Fire Center, Fire Director

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

LOCATION: Birthday Fire, BIA Crow Agency,

DATE OF OCCURRENCE: April 19, 2010

TIME OF OCCURRENCE: Approximately 17:55 PM MST

TEAM LEADER (POSITION): Bryce Rogers, Assistant Fire Management Officer

ACTIVITY: Wildland Fire Suppression

NUMBER & TYPE OF INJURY: 1, Multiple Trauma

NARRATIVE:

A firefighter was struck by a limb from a cottonwood on Monday at approximately 1800 PM MDT during wildland fire suppression operations while assigned to the Birthday Fire located on the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Crow Agency in South Central Montana. The firefighter was transported by air ambulance to Billings, MT for treatment of injuries received.

The fire was reported at approximately 1330 PM MDT in a dense brushy riparian area along a river corridor. Weather conditions during Initial Attack on Monday afternoon were sunny with 70+ degrees with southeast light winds. Late afternoon conditions were reported as scattered dark cumulus cloud built up with locally erratic winds, lightning and scattered rain.

The firefighter was struck while retreating from the riparian area while assisting with suppression actions during a flare-up. Firefighter is improving daily from multiple injuries and is still at the medical center receiving care. Final size of the fire is 7 acres and is controlled.

A NWCG fire investigation and Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (CISD) is complete. The Lessons Learned Review (LLR) with participants was completed yesterday and the final report is due in two weeks.

SUBMITTED BY: Judith Gray, BIA, Crow Indian Agency Superintendent