

Jefferson County Sheriff Office

Reported Date
04/09/2012
Nature Of CallMember#/Dept ID#
ROACH , DONALD

Administrative Information

Agency Jefferson County Sheriff Office	Report No 12-8273	Supplement No 0004	Reported Date 04/09/2012	Reported Time 13:26
Member#/Dept ID# 1500/ROACH , DONALD	Assignment INVESTIGATIONS INTEL			Entered by 1500
RMS Transfer Successful	Prop Trans Stat Successful	Approving Officer 0084	Approval Date 04/09/2012	Approval Time 14:50:17

Narrative

PHONE INTERVIEW WITH CURT ROGERS

On April 3, 2012, at about 2:24 p.m., I conducted a phone interview with Curt Rogers, Fire Chief for the North Fork Fire Department, as part of the investigation into the origin and cause of the Lower North Fork Fire (LNF).

During my interview with Chief Rogers, we spoke about his response for assistance to the prescribed burn area on Denver Water Board property on March 26, 2012. On that day North Fork Fire personnel were dispatched to the Denver Water Board Property by the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Dispatch, to assist the Colorado State Forest Service with a "slop over" in the prescribed burn area. When Chief Rogers arrived at the prescribed burn area he observed a Colorado State Forest Service "engine" engaged in fire suppression along the dirt road on the property. As he continued in he observed "multiple spot fires" on the northeast end of the burn unit. As additional NFFD fire personnel arrived, they began to assist with extinguishing spot fires in the area. At that time, Chief Rogers spoke with the CSFS Forester Kevin Michalak, and discussed concerns that the fire was becoming a much larger event. It was determined that the request for a Type 3 Incident Management Team (IMT) be made. Chief Rogers estimated that the fire had spread to approximately five acres at that time.

I asked Chief Rogers if he had made the request to the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office for the Type 3 IMT and he stated he did, but that he believed CSFS had already made the request.

Chief Rogers stated that while he was on scene the wind was "extremely strong" and that one of the firefighters working on a NFFD engine had used either a Kestrol or a Sky Master to take a wind measurement. According to Rogers the wind measurement showed the wind to be sustained at 50 mph from the southwest, with stronger gusts.

Chief Rogers, Michalak and Elk Creek Fire Department Fire Chief Bill McLaughlin went to the end of Platte View Rd., to look over the fire. Rogers stated that it was difficult to see the exact spread of the fire due to heavy smoke; however they could tell that the fire was progressing rapidly. At that time they identified a drainage area in the valley as the "trigger point", which Rogers explained was a term used to identify a progression point in a Wild land Fire where if reached by the fire, evacuation requests would be made. They then returned to the Denver Water Board property.

While speaking with Chief Rogers, I asked him if he knew of any Burn Permits in the NFFD district and he stated he did not. He went on to explain that Burn Permits are issued by the Jefferson County Health Department and signed off on by the Fire Department.

I also asked Chief Rogers if he had responded up to the area of the Reynolds Park Fire on March 23, 2012. He stated that he did and that he believed the fire cause included some type of human activity, although he could not specify exactly what had caused the fire. I asked him if he believed the LNF fire and the Reynolds Park fire could be linked and he stated that it was highly unlikely. Chief Rogers did not indicate that evidence of a campfire was found near the Reynolds Ranch Fire.

Chief Rogers was also asked if the NFFD had been dispatched to any smoke or fire investigation between March 23rd and March 26th. Chief Rogers recalled the Reynolds Park Fire as well as a smoke investigation call coming

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from the prescribed burn area on March 24th, 2012. He stated that they contacted the CSFS and were advised that the smoke coming from the burn area was well within the black.

DISPOSITION: Open