

# NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service

San Bernardino National Forest



**Date:** January 27, 2006

San Bernardino National Forest  
1824 S. Commercenter Circle  
San Bernardino, California 92408

For Immediate Release

**Contact:** Ruth Wenstrom  
(909) 382-2711

## Plunge Fire “Accidentally Caused”

Forest Service criminal investigator Ron Huxman, who spent the better part of this week conducting interviews and following up on leads related to the cause of the Plunge Fire, announced today that the fire was definitely human caused, and that it may have been an accident. “There has been so much speculation in the media centered around shooting as the cause that I felt I should clarify things,” said Huxman. “This fire was most likely not caused by shooting. The fine fuels involved were too moist for a spark from a bullet to start the fire.”

He declined to provide details, saying that it might jeopardize the investigation. “Until the investigation is complete, the best way to follow up on leads is to keep a few of the details confidential. We believe we know the specific cause of this fire, but don’t feel it’s appropriate to release it, because it might jeopardize the investigation.”

**-MORE-**

Huxman has identified several people near the area where the fire started and is looking for additional information. He would like to talk with anyone who may have been in the area Monday morning when the fire started. Huxman can be reached at (909) 382-2699.

.###