



San Bernardino
National Forest

News Release



San Bernardino County
Fire Department

For Immediate Release

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Injured Firefighters Treated and Released

San Bernardino, Ca....Five firefighters who were injured Sunday afternoon in an accident in the Cajon Pass have been treated and released from Arrowhead Regional Medical Center. The five were working to suppress two small wildfires burning along the northbound lanes of Interstate 15 when they were struck by a pickup truck towing a boat trailer. The accident occurred just before 1:30 p.m.

Jason McGowan, the most seriously injured of the five, was unconscious when he was transported by Life Flight Helicopter to the hospital. The US Forest Service firefighter regained consciousness and underwent a battery of tests for internal injuries before being released from the hospital with only facial cuts, scrapes, and bruises.

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San Bernardino County Firefighter Chad Patterson suffered a shoulder injury, while Travis Thogmartin of the US Forest Service suffered a bruised knee. Both had been transported by ground ambulance earlier in the day, and both were treated and released late this afternoon.

Donny Hultquist and Juan DeLeon, both San Bernardino County Firefighters, suffered only minor scrapes and bruises when they dove out of the way as the truck approached. The two were checked out by medical staff and released.

"We're all very lucky today," said Forest Service Fire Chief Mike Dietrich. "These firefighters could have been much more seriously injured. I hope it will serve as a reminder to citizens to use caution and to slow down whenever they see police or fire equipment working along the road."

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