

News & Events

One Firefighter Dead, Four Injured in Wildfire in Southern Black Hills

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Custer, SD - Officials were saddened today at news of an accident that took the life of one firefighter and injured four others.

"We are so terribly sorry to hear this news," said Jerome Thomas, acting Rocky Mountain Regional Forester, headquartered in Denver, Colorado. Thomas said the firefighters were injured while fighting the Coal Canyon fire nine miles north of Edgemont, SD in the southern Black Hills.

One State of South Dakota firefighter died and two were evacuated by life flight.

Two Forest Service firefighters, one from the Black Hills National Forest stationed at Custer, SD, and one from the Nebraska National Forest and Grasslands, stationed in Hot Springs, SD, were examined at local hospitals and released.

"This is tragic," said Black Hills National Forest Supervisor Craig Bobzien. "Our thoughts and prayers go out to these firefighters, their families and the interagency wild land fire community and emergency responders."

The Coal Canyon fire is still very active and was last reported at over 100 acres.

Bobzien ordered an interagency fire management team with additional firefighters and equipment. The team will take command of the fire on Friday, August 12.

The Fall River County, SD, Sheriff and Coroner were notified and responded to the scene.

Updates will be sent as more information becomes available. Press releases will be filed at 10am, 3pm, and 7pm depending on circumstances.

For more information, please contact Frank Carroll at (605) 673-1504.

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