

News Release

Susanville Interagency Fire Center

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Lassen National Forest
Bureau of Land Management Lassen Volcanic National Park

For Release: **Monday, July 26, 2004, 5 p.m.**
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THREE INJURED IN HELICOPTER CRASH AT STAYLOR FIRE

Three persons were hurt this afternoon when a helicopter crashed while working on the Straylor Fire near Fall River Mills.

The helicopter with three aboard went down while flying over the northwest section of the 3,200-acre fire. The aircraft was on a reconnaissance flight.

Fire officials said the pilot and two fire observers suffered minor to major injuries. They received emergency medical treatment at the scene, and were airlifted to Mercy Medical Center in Redding. Their names have not yet been released.

Details on the cause of the crash are not yet available. A California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Serious Accident Investigation Team have been dispatched to the scene.

A dozen helicopters were working on the Straylor Fire today. The aircraft are used for a variety of missions including water dropping, shuttling crews and equipment, reconnaissance and mapping.

The Straylor Fire has been burning since Thursday afternoon on the Lassen National Forest, private land and public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management. It broke out Thursday afternoon.

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