



# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## THREE STATE FORESTRY FIREFIGHTERS INJURED WORKING FIRE NEAR YUMA

**Phoenix, AZ (3/19/18)** - Three firefighters are recovering from injuries they sustained while working a brush fire outside of Yuma over the weekend.

On Friday, two State Forestry firefighters were burned after falling into an ash pit on the Laguna Fire, 14 miles northeast of Yuma.

The first firefighter suffered 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> degree burns and was flown to the Arizona Burn Center in Phoenix where he remains in the hospital.

The second firefighter was treated at a Yuma-area hospital and released.

On Saturday, a third firefighter was also injured on the same fire. He suffered minor burns and was also treated at the hospital and released.

Two of the firefighters are part of State Forestry's Phoenix Crew. The third firefighter is a member of State Forestry and the Department of Corrections' Yuma Crew.

"Firefighter safety is our number one priority at all times. The accidents are currently under review and being investigated by the department. We ask that you please keep all of our firefighters in your thoughts," said State Forester Jeff Whitney.

All three firefighters are expected to make full recoveries.

The 15-acre Laguna Fire started Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup> and is under investigation.

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