



## Basalt & Rural Fire Protection District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Willits Lane Wildland Fire**

**Basalt, Colorado – July 16, 2016, 5:00 p.m.**

On July 15, 2016 at 6:15 p.m. Basalt & Rural Fire Protection District (B&RFPD) was dispatched to a reported wildland fire at Willits Lane & Evans Road. Initial dispatch information indicated there was a wildland fire rapidly spreading into cottonwood trees. A plume of smoke could be seen from incoming resources and active flames were observed in the densely wooded area. B&RFPD apparatus and personnel were on-scene within 4 minutes.

Firefighting efforts were aggressive and crews were able to contain the fire to approximately 1.5 acres, preventing further spread to adjacent structures and neighborhoods. Eight fire apparatus, two ambulances and 23 personnel from B&RFPD were on scene working for several hours to extinguish the fire and perform overhaul operations.

A firefighter sustained second-degree burns to his abdomen and upper extremities after a mechanical failure of a firefighting pump. A hose ruptured, spraying the firefighter with scalding-hot water and causing the second-degree burns. The firefighter was immediately transported to Valley View Hospital, treated in the emergency department and hospitalized for further treatment and evaluation. Late this morning the firefighter was released from the hospital. No civilian injuries were reported.

A shed containing construction materials and equipment was damaged; however, a loss cannot be estimated at this time.

The cause of the fire has been determined to be arson and is still under investigation. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Basalt Police Department at (970) 927-4316.

Basalt & Rural Fire Protection District was assisted by the following agencies: Basalt Police Department, Carbondale & Rural Fire Protection District, Snowmass-Wildcat Fire Protection District, Glenwood Springs Fire Department, Bureau of Land Management Interagency Engine 2621, USDA Forest Service Law Enforcement, and the Colorado Bureau of Investigation. Additionally Hughes Excavating provided heavy equipment and operators.

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