

# **MARTIS FIRE UPDATE**

## **HUMBOLDT-TOIYABE NATIONAL FOREST**

### **TAHOE NATIONAL FOREST**

#### **NEVADA-YUBA-PLACER UNIT**

**THURSDAY, June 21, 2001**  
**08:00 am.**

**Fire Information (775)787-0041**  
**Bernie Paul, Fire Information Officer**

A joint CDF/USFS Investigation Team assisted by the Nevada County Sheriffs Department is currently conducting a thorough investigation into the cause of the Martis Fire and a prior fire in the same vicinity. The following information is what is known:

Two Fire Engines from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) and one Fire District Water Tender responded to a fire on June 16, 2001 at 7:00 a.m. Fire Fighters found a fire approximately 30 X 60 feet in size, presumed to have been caused by an escaped campfire. Evidence was present of someone's unsuccessful attempts to control the escaped campfire. Additional evidence found at the camp location was consistent with that of a marijuana growing operation.

Firefighters spent three and one-half hours containing and mopping up the fire. They left the scene when they determined that the fire was out. Reviews of the action taken by firefighters were found to be consistent with training and policy.

At 12:04 p.m. on Sunday, June 17, 2001 a fire, which was to be named the Martis Fire, was reported in the vicinity of the escaped campfire. Weather conditions at the time were 6% humidity and 85 degrees, with winds from the west at 5 to 10 MPH. Burn indicators showed that the Martis Fire started in close proximity to the original fire.

Investigators are following up on leads that may indicate that someone returned to the campsite after Firefighters had extinguished the escaped campfire and before the start of the Martis Fire. Investigators are following every lead and processing all evidence.

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