

Two charged in deaths of illegal immigrants in truck

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Body

Two men accused of smuggling a semitrailer truck full of illegal Mexican immigrants across the border were charged with murder Sunday in the deaths of two of the passengers.

Troy Dock and Jason Sprague were being held in jail on \$1-million bail each.

More than 40 immigrants are believed to have been riding in the truck Saturday but only 27 have been accounted for, said Lynn Ligon, spokesman for the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Compiled from Times Wires

Fourteen passengers remained hospitalized Sunday, and three were jailed for entering the country illegally. Three women and five children were released to Dallas-area family members, Ligon said. They will be given the choice of voluntary return to Mexico or appearing at an immigration hearing.

After a 12-hour journey, the immigrants poured out of the 53-foot trailer exhausted and dehydrated at a truck stop.

The truck left the scene before authorities arrived. It was later discovered about 40 miles north of Dallas in Anna, where two bodies were found in the parked rig. Another man who stumbled from the back of the truck was hospitalized in serious condition.

The temperature hit 96 degrees in Dallas on Saturday and one of the victims said they had futilely torn a small hole in the truck's roof for air.

The truck, which was carrying medical supplies, apparently began its route Friday in Santa Fe, N.M., before spending the night at a truck stop in El Paso. Ligon said authorities were not sure where the immigrants crossed the border.

3 firefighters killed when engine rolls into ravine

PORTLAND, Ore. - A fire engine fighting wildfires in the Klamath National Forest tumbled 800 feet off a steep, dirt road into a ravine Sunday, killing three firefighters, officials said.

Two others survived the plunge and were airlifted to the Mercy Medical Center in Redding, Calif., said Brian Harris, a the U.S. Forest Service spokesman. Their conditions were not known.

The five firefighters were returning from a 620-acre fire near the extreme northern California town of Happy Camp about 2 a.m. when the truck rolled off the ravine, he said.

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The about 400 firefighters working the fires retreated Sunday and let the blaze burn unchecked, Harris said. No homes were threatened. The **deaths** brought to 12 the number of firefighters killed while fighting blazes in the West this summer.

Meanwhile, a wildfire near the Columbia River port town of The Dalles had grown to 12,000 acres Sunday and burned to within inches of some rural buildings.

In California's Sierra Nevada, a blaze in and around Giant Sequoia National Monument had grown to 66,000 acres Sunday.

Firefighters had minimized the threat to the ancient sequoia trees, said fire information officer Jill Slater.

Drunken worker topples 100-foot crane, police say

NEW YORK - A 35-ton crane fell over near the World Trade Center site on Sunday while the operator was drunk, police said.

Crane operator Noel Brolly suffered a minor hand injury. No one else was injured, officers said.

Brolly was using the 100-foot crane to load debris onto a **truck** at the World Financial Center, which was damaged by the collapse of the World Trade Center towers.

The crane toppled onto the West Side Highway and blocked **two** of its four lanes, but "traffic is pretty light in that area on Sunday morning," said police Officer Jennara Everleth. Brolly, 38, was **charged** with reckless endangerment. In addition to being intoxicated, he didn't secure the crane to its platform, Everleth said.

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