



Farmer Dies During Controlled Burn

Tractor Flips in Irrigation Ditch, Killing Driver

Scott Lucero, 7NEWS

March 27, 2008

ORCHARD, Colo. -- A farmer trying to control a grass fire on his property died Wednesday afternoon when the tractor he was driving flipped into an irrigation ditch and crushed him.

Morgan County Sheriff Jim Crone said Charles Wynne, 55, was driving his tractor on top of a ditch to get ahead of the fire and cut a fire break, when the ground shifted or partially collapsed, causing the tractor to flip and roll on top of the farmer.

Wynne was killed instantly.

Wynne was plowing his ground when the fire started. He called for the fire department at about 2:45 p.m, alerting them that a grass fire had jumped a ditch and was out of control. Investigators don't know if Wynne was burning or if the ditch company was burning in the area.

"As the tractor got to the ditch, it drove onto the access road that runs along the south side of the ditch. As the tractor turned right on to the road, the left wheels got too close to the edge of the ditch and the bank gave way," Crone said.

Wiggins, Fort Morgan and Platte Valley fire departments all responded to the scene.

One of the first Wiggins firefighters arriving at the scene saw Wynne going through the smoke on his tractor. It wasn't until an hour later when another firefighter near that area discovered a tractor overturned in the Riverside ditch with a man pinned underneath.

The sheriff's office will continue investigating the cause and origin of the fire since there was a fatality involved.

About 100 acres were burned by the brush fire, located northwest of the town of Orchard, Colo. The fire is north of County Road Y, just east of the county line, along the Riverside Irrigation ditch.

Source: <http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/15718358/detail.html>



Farmer Dies When Tractor Flips Into Ditch, Pinning Him

By Bill Scanlon, Rocky Mountain News
March 28, 2008

An eastern Colorado farmer using a tractor to make a firebreak for an out-of-control burn died Wednesday when the tractor's wheels caught the edge of an irrigation ditch, flipped into the ditch and pinned the man.

Charles Wynne, 55, of Orchard, was declared dead at the scene, along County Road Y at the Riverside Irrigation Ditch in Morgan County.

Sheriff's deputies and members of the Wiggins Fire Department responded to reports Wednesday afternoon of an out-of-control prescribed burn on the property farmed by Wynne.

They discovered Wynne's body about an hour after getting the call.

One of the first arriving Wiggins firefighters had observed Wynne going through the smoke on his tractor. It was in this immediate area that Wynne's body was discovered later.

Wynne was plowing some of the ground that he farmed when the fire started. It's not certain whether Wynne or the ditch company was doing the burn.

Sheriff's officers are investigating the cause and origin of the fire.

Source: <http://www.rockymountainnews.com/news/2008/mar/28/farmer-dies-when-tractor-flips-into-ditch-him/>