



Safety and Health Working Team

National Wildland-Fire Coordinating Group

SAFETY GRAM



Accident/incident Summary: Fatalities And Entrapments 00-01

The following data indicate the 1999 fatalities, entrapments* and entrapment-related injuries associated with wildland and prescribed fire operations. There were 26 fatalities and 44 firefighters entrapped. The information was collected by the NWCG Safety & Health Working Team, with confirmation from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

| Date | Location | Type of Accident | Organization | Entrapped | Shelter Available | # of Shelters Deployed | Fatalities | Injuries |
|----------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------|-------------------|------------------------|------------|--|
| Jan 11 | Ozark-St. Francis NF, AR | Heart Attack WCT | Federal | n/a | | | 1 | |
| Feb 9 | North Platte, NE | Burnover-Tractor/Plow | Volunteer | 1 | no | n/a | | 2 nd /3 rd * burns |
| Feb 15 | Emmitsburg, MD | Heart Attack | Volunteer | n/a | | | 1 | |
| Feb 16 | Vineland, NJ | Heart Attack | Volunteer | n/a | | | 1 | |
| March 14 | Golden Gate, FL | Burnover | Volunteer | 3 | no | n/a | | burns, injuries |
| March 16 | Mullen Fire, NE | Heart Attack | Volunteer | n/a | | | 1 | |
| April 6 | Inland Fork Fire, KY | Burnover | Volunteer | 2 | no | n/a | 2 | |
| April 8 | Mountain Fire, MA | Heart Attack | Volunteer | n/a | | | 1 | |
| April 17 | Miami, FL | Burnover | State | 2 | yes | 0 | | minor burn |
| May 4 | Big Bend, TX | Burnover (R) | Federal | 2 | yes | 2 | | no injuries |
| June 11 | Donnelly Flats Fire, AK | Burnover | Federal | 7 | no | n/a | | 1 minor burn |
| June 23 | Lakeport Fire, CA | Electrocution | Volunteer | n/a | | | 1 | |
| July 2 | Railroad Fire, UT | Burnover | Federal | 2 | yes | 1 | | minor burns |
| July 7 | Lebanon, PA | Heart Attack | Volunteer | n/a | | | 1 | |
| July 17 | LA County, CA | 150-foot Fall | County | n/a | | | 1 | |
| July 22 | Wagon Box Fire, NV | Burnover | Federal | 5 | yes | 0 | | minor burns |
| Aug 5 | Cygnets, OH | Heart Attack | Volunteer | n/a | | | 1 | |
| Aug 5 | Woodville, TX | Crushed by Engine | Volunteer | n/a | | | 1 | |
| Aug 9 | Sadler Fire, NV | Burnover | Federal | 6 | yes | 1 | | minor burns |
| Aug 9 | Pompeys Pillar, MT | Burnover-Dozer | Volunteer | 1 | no | n/a | | 2 nd /3 rd * burns |
| Aug 15 | Winn Parish, LA | Burnover-Dozer | State | 2 | no | n/a | | no injuries |

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|---------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------|-------------------|------------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| Aug 24 | Stringtown, OK | Burnover | State | 2 | yes | 2 | | no injuries |
| Aug 24 | Feather River Fire, CA | Burnover-Dozer | Contract | 1 | yes | 0 | | minor burns |
| Aug 27 | Camusa Fire, CA | Heat Exhaustion | City, EMT | n/a | | | 1 | |
| Sept 14 | Alcorn County, MS | Burnover-Tractor/Plow | State | 2 | no | n/a | | 2 nd burns |
| Sept 15 | Clark County, IN | Run over by Engine | Volunteer | n/a | | | 1 | |
| Sept 28 | Big Bar Fire, CA | Heart Attack | Federal | n/a | | | 1 | |
| Oct 5 | LaJolla Fire, CA | Head Injury-Rock | Federal | n/a | | | 1 | |
| Oct 4 | West Plains, MO | Electrocution | Volunteer | n/a | | | 1 | |
| Oct 7 | Wilmont, MN | Heat Attack | Volunteer | n/a | | | 1 | |
| Oct 16 | Junction City, CA | Run Over by Engine | Volunteer | n/a | | | 1 | |
| Oct 19 | Jewell Fire, CA | Burnover-Engine | State | 4 | yes | 0 | | no injuries |
| Oct 28 | LaPorte, IN | Engine Overturned | Volunteer | n/a | | | 1 | |
| Oct 29 | Anderson, CA | Murder | Contractor, driver | n/a | | | 1 | |
| Oct 29 | Cookville, TN | Drowning | State | n/a | | | 1 | |
| Nov 3 | West Fork, AR | Electrocution | Volunteer | n/a | | | 1 | |
| Nov 20 | Quapaw, OK | Heart Attack | Volunteer | n/a | | | 1 | |
| Nov 22 | Bronson Fire, TX | Burnover | Federal | 2 | yes | 0 | | minor burns |
| Nov 27 | Cochranville, PA | Heart Attack | Volunteer | n/a | | | 1 | |
| Dec 15 | Zwolle, LA | Tanker Truck Crash | Volunteer | n/a | | | 1 | |
| TOTALS | | | | 44 | | 6 | 26 | |

These accidents reinforce the need for being continually alert to the "Situations That Shout Watch Out" and ensuring that all of the "10 Standard Fire Fighting Orders" are followed before initiating tactical operations. A simple concept to remember and share with crew members is "L.C.E.S." The acronym stands for Lookouts, Communication, Escape Routes, and Safety Zones. If a fire crew has these four areas fully established and understood, they can anticipate a safer assignment.

Timely reporting of entrapments or fatalities is necessary. Completion of the Wildland Fire Entrapment/Fatality Initial Report (NFES 0869) accomplishes this need. This initial report is self explanatory and does not replace agency reporting or investigative responsibilities, policies or procedures.

The NWCG Safety & Health Working Team requests any Investigation Reports from agencies that experienced the above or other entrapments/ major accidents in 1999. Please forward to: National Interagency Fire Center; NWCG/SHWT - Stan Palmer; 3833 So. Development Ave.; Boise, ID 83705 spalmer@nifc.blm.gov.