



NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP

Fireline Safety Committee

SAFETYGRAM

ACCIDENT/INCIDENT SUMMARY: 17 FATALITIES AND 31 ENTRAPMENTS

91-01

A review of the data gathered by the NWCG Fireline Safety Committee, indicates that the 1990 major accidents and "near misses" includes seventeen fatalities and thirty-one entrapments associated with forest and wildland fire suppression. This information is based on federal and state reports. In addition to these, there were five municipal or volunteer, fire department wildland fire related fatalities reported by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

1990 FATALITIES			
DATE	LOCATION	CAUSE	ORGANIZATION
6/24/90	Tonto N.F.	Entrapment (6)	State
6/27/90	Riverside RU	Entrapment (2)	State
7/09/90	Alaska (AFS)	Heart Attack	Forest Service
8/13/90	Mendocino N.F.	Falling Limb	State
8/15/90	Malheur N.F.	Stroke	Forest Service
8/17/90	Shasta Trinity N.F.	Heart Attack	State
8/26/90	Utah State Park	Entrapment (2)	State
9/11/90	Colville Reservation	Helicopter (1)	Contractor
9/30/90	Glympia N.F.	Aircraft (2)	Contractor
TOTAL = 17 FATALITIES			

There were 31 reported entrapments which compares favorably with the 1989 season, when 34 were reported.

1990 ENTRAPMENTS						
DATE	FIRE	LOCATION	PERSONS	SHELTERS DEPLOYED	INJURY	
6/26/90	Dude	Tonto N.F.	11(ST)	Yes	6 fatal/ 3 burn	
6/27/90	California	Riverside RU	17(ST)	Yes	2 fatal/ 3 burn	
8/26/90	Wasatch Mtn.	Utah	2(ST)	Yes(1)	2 fatalities	
10/15/90	Craven Co.	North Carolina	1(ST)	No	1 Burn	
TOTAL = 31 ENTRAPMENTS						

Lack of awareness of the 18 situations that shout "Watch Out", and not following all of the "Fire Orders" to mitigate these situations continues to be a national problem. In addition, some of the shelters are not being deployed in a timely manner, and/or in an ideal area. The chain of fire related events began on June 26, 1990, in Arizona and concluded on October 15, 1990, in North Carolina.

The Committee would appreciate notification from agencies that experienced other entrapments or major accidents in 1990. Please forward to:

Chairman, NWCG Fireline Safety Committee
P.O. Box 96090, Room 1004 RPE
Washington, D.C. 20090-6090