



Safety and Health Working Team

National Wildland-Fire Coordinating Group



SAFETY GRAM

ACCIDENT/INCIDENT SUMMARY: FATALITIES AND ENTRAPMENTS 95-01

The following data indicates the 1994 major accidents and entrapments * associated with wildland fire suppression. There were 34 fatalities and 117 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 | ORG. | ENTRAPPED | SHELTER DEPL. | NOT DEPL. | FATALITIES | INJURIES |
|----------|--------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|------------|------------------|
| 02/29/94 | Tuskegee, Al. | Heart attack | USFS | no | | | 1 | |
| 03/22/94 | Alva, Ok. | Engine overturn | Volunteer | no | | | 1 | |
| 03/22/94 | Trendon, Missouri | Heart attack | Volunteer | no | | | 1 | |
| 04/01/94 | Wichita Mt. Refuge, Ok. | Burn over | F & W | 1 | 1 | | 0 | |
| 04/02/94 | Vantmallo, Al. | Water tender acc. | Volunteer | no | | | 1 | |
| 04/03/94 | Augusta, Wi. | Burnover | Volunteer | 1 | | 1 | 1 | |
| 04/07/94 | Lewellen, Ne. | Water tender acc. | Volunteer | no | | | 1 | |
| 06/01/94 | Mackenzie Fire, Az. | Burn over | USFS | 3 | 3 | | 0 | |
| 06/02/94 | Sawmill Fire, Az. | Burn over | USFS | 1 | 1 | | 0 | |
| 06/14/94 | Coffee Pot, N.M. | Burn over | USFS | 5 | | | 0 | |
| 06/25/94 | Scout Fire, Ca. | Burnover | USFS | 4 | | | 0 | |
| 06/29/94 | Bailey Fire, Ca. | Burn over | USFS | 7 | 6 | 1 | 0 | |
| 07/02/94 | Ft. Collins, Co. | Burn over | USFS | 5 | | | 0 | |
| 07/03/94 | San Bernardino N.F., Ca. | Burn over | CDF | 3 | | 3 | 0 | |
| 07/03/94 | Glenwood Springs, Co. | Burn over | BLM/USFS | 49 | 10 | 39 | 14 | burns |
| 07/06/94 | Gila N.F., N. M. | Helicopter crash | USFS | no | | | 3 | |
| 07/12/94 | ILL Fire, Nv. | Burn over | BLM | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | smoke inhalation |
| 07/30/94 | Missoula, Mt. | Air tanker crash | Contractor/USFS | no | | | 2 | |
| 08/05/94 | Livermoore, Mt. | Burn over | BIA | 22 | 22 | | 0 | |
| 08/03/94 | Wenatchee N.F., Wa. | Heart attack | Contractor/USFS | no | | | 1 | |
| 08/13/94 | Angeles N.F., Ca. | Air tanker crash | Contractor/USFS | no | | 4 | 3 | |
| 08/13/94 | Challis N.F., Id. | Burn over | USFS | 1 | 1 | | 0 | Blister, eye |
| 08/19/94 | Plumas N.F., Ca. | Water tender acc. | Contractor/USFS | no | | | 1 | |
| 08/25/94 | Medford, Or. | Burn over-dozer | Contractor/State | yes | | | 1 | |
| 09/02/94 | Baby Dean, Mt. | Burn over | BIA | 4 | 4 | | 0 | |

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|----------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|------------|----------|
| 09/14/94 | Boise N.F., Id. | Motor vehicle acc. | EFF, BLM | no | | | 1 | |
| 09/23/94 | Payette N.F., Id. | Helicopter crash | Military/USFS | no | | | 1 | |
| 11/20/94 | Cedar fire, Ga. | Burn over | USFS | <u>3</u> | 2 | | 1 | |
| TOTALS | | | | 117 | | | 34 | |

*Entrapment: A situation where personnel are unexpectedly caught in a fire behavior-related, life-threatening position where planned escape routes or safety zones are absent, inadequate, or have been compromised. An entrapment may or may not include deployment of a fire shelter for its intended purpose. These situations may or may not result in injury. They include "near misses".

In addition to the above fatalities and entrapments, six snag accidents (5 injuries on fires, one fatal on a recreational project) were reported.

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, then they can anticipate a safer assignment.

Timely reporting of entrapments or fatalities is necessary for the rapid dissemination of accurate information to the fire community. It also allows fire safety and equipment specialists to quickly respond to these events as appropriate. 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 would appreciate notification from agencies that experienced other entrapments or major accidents in 1994. Please forward to:

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