

ATV ACCIDENT CASE STUDY In Brief

On August 2, 2004 a seasonal Bureau of Land Management employee died as a result of an All Terrain Vehicle Accident (ATV).

The employee, a Biological Technician, arrived for work on the morning of August 2, 2004 and confirmed his work plan and schedule with his supervisor. His assignment was to conduct land and health surveys in the local area of the Field Office. An ATV was to be used to accomplish the work and the victim and the supervisor discussed the work to be accomplished. The travel routes, and the planned return time to the office of 1600 to 1630 hours was established.

The employee departed for the work area and no further contact was received during the day.

At approximately 1615 the supervisor noted that the employee had not returned from the field nor had there been any communication received from him. The supervisor initiated a radio and telephone search and when no contact had been received by 1730 hours he began notifying Field Office management and enlisting personnel for a search operation. Field Office personnel were organized into 3 search teams. The County Sheriffs Office was notified and the County Search and Rescue organization put on standby.

Field Office search parties were dispatched to the planned work area and began searching at approximately 2030 hours. The employee's truck was located at 2120 hours. At 2224 hours the victim was found pinned under the ATV he had been operating. After a first aid assessment, the employee was presumed to be deceased and notification was made to the search parties and Sheriff Personnel. Two Field Office search personnel secured the accident site and remained there until the County Sheriffs Deputies arrived.

At 0200 hours on August 3, 2004 County Sheriffs Deputies and a body recovery team arrived and assumed control of the accident scene.