



**TO :**

**FROM :** National Wildfire Coordinating Group

**REPLY TO :** NWCG@nifc.gov

**DATE :** 07/11/2001

**SUBJECT :** SAFETY BULLETIN : Okanogan Fatalities

---

The following attachment provides information involving the 30 Mile Fire fatalities on the Okanogan National Forest.

---



## FROM THE NATIONAL INCIDENT INFORMATION CENTER

**Date:** July 11, 2001 - 1430

**Topic:** Four Firefighter Fatalities – Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests

**Background:** On July 10, 2001, four members of a Forest Service regular firefighting crew lost their lives while working on the Thirty Mile Fire on the Okanogan National Forest. The fire, which started on July 9, grew from less than 10 acres yesterday morning to over 2,500 acres by afternoon, requiring shelter deployment by the crew members. The cause is suspected to be an unattended campfire.

### Key Points:

- The Okanogan Coroners office has confirmed four fatalities. 21 firefighters and 2 civilians were entrapped in a narrow canyon of the Chewuch River Valley. Fire shelters were deployed in an area surrounded by fire. One other crewmember has severe burns and was transported to a Seattle burn center. Other crew members were treated for smoke inhalation and minor burns. All other firefighters were removed from the incident last night.
- All deceased and injured firefighters were employees from the Naches, Lake Wenatchee and Leavenworth Ranger Districts of the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests.
- The deceased firefighters are Tom L. Craven, 30, Ellensburg, WA.; Karen L. Fitzpatrick, 18, Yakima, WA.; Devin A. Weaver, 21, Yakima, WA.; Jessica L. Johnson, 19, Yakima, WA. All were from the Naches Ranger District.
- The fire is burning on National Forest lands, 20 miles north of the community of Winthrop, Washington. No private lands or structures have been lost or are being threatened. The vegetation type is dense lodgepole pine, sub-alpine and Douglas fir stands of 80-100 years old. 30 additional crews (600 firefighters) have been ordered to assist with firefighting efforts.
- Chief Dale Bosworth will leave Washington D.C. today to visit the Thirty Mile fire. A Chief's Office investigation team has been formed. Jim Furnish, Deputy Chief for National Forest Systems, will be the lead.
- A Type 1 Incident Management Team (Joe Stutler) will take over the incident today. A critical incident stress team has been ordered for incident personnel. 30 additional crews (600 firefighters) have been ordered to assist with firefighting efforts
- All appropriate and necessary contacts are being made with key contacts. USDA Safety Manager and OSHA have been notified of the fatalities.