



TO :

FROM : National Wildfire Coordinating Group

REPLY TO : NWCG@nifc.gov

DATE : 09/14/2004

SUBJECT : SAFETY BULLETIN : Tuolumne Incident 24 Hour Report

The attached 24 hour report regarding the fatality on the Tuolumne Incident was released today .
Please insure it receives wide distribution within your agency .



Tuolumne 24 hour brief.r



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington
Office

14th and Independence Ave. SW.
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File code: 6730
Route to:

Date: September 14, 2004

Subject: Preliminary (24-Hour) Briefing

To: RegionalForester

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AN SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Location: Stanislaus National Forest

Date of occurrence: September 12, 2004

Time of occurrence: 1345, Fire reported 1233

Team leader: John Berry and Dan Turner

Mission: Initial Attack

Activity: Fire Suppression

Number injured: 6

Number of fatalities: 1

Property damage (such as to vessels, equipment, and structures): none

Narrative: September 12, 2004, Stanislaus National Forest, Goveland Ranger District, A nine person CDF helitack crew was part of an initial attack force responding to the Tuolumne fire around 12:30 PM. Fire was approximately 15 acres in steep terrain with slopes in excess of 100%. Seven crew members were in the process of cutting line when the fire flared up, over running the crew. One fire fighter was killed and 6 others injured. No shelters were deployed.

A major accident investigation Team made up of California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) and US Forest Service is onsite. Dan Turner, Chief, CDF- San Luis Obispo, and John Berry Eldorado National Forest Supervisor are the Team Leaders for the joint investigation.

The Investigation Team will be gathering facts from the site, weather and other fire behavior information, personal interviews, and other background information. The Team plans on having one report for the two agencies.

JOHN BERRY
Team Leader

DAN TURNER
Team Leader

cc:
Safety Manager Shannon Martinez, Dick King, Larry Crabtree



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