



**TO :**

**FROM :** National Wildfire Coordinating Group

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

**DATE :** 04/28/2008

**SUBJECT :** SAFETY BULLETIN : Preliminary Report - WCT incident - Humboldt CC

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This incident is a good reminder to follow your respective agency's work capacity testing (WCT) procedures and ensure that qualified medical personnel are on site.

Thank you,

Michelle Ryerson  
Safety & Health Working Team Chair



WCT Incident April 17 2008\_Humboldt CC\_Preliminary Report.pdf

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STATE OF NEVADA  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
**NEVADA DIVISION OF FORESTRY**

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**April 24, 2008**

**Preliminary Report - Serious Injury**

**To:** Pete Anderson, State Forester Firewarden

**From:** Tom Turk, Team Lead

**Subject:** Cardiac Emergency  
Nevada Division of Forestry, Humboldt Conservation Camp,  
Humboldt County, Nevada

**Injured Employee:** Fire Crew Captain

**Preliminary Factual Findings:** On April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008, a fire crew captain was participating in the annual work capacity test at the arduous level when he suffered an apparent heart attack. The cardiac emergency was witnessed by several co-workers, a test administrator, an on-scene emergency medical technician and proctor. The crew captain was carrying a 45 pound pack test vest and fell to the ground.

**Narrative:** The work capacity test is administered each year prior to the start of the fire season. The Humboldt Conservation Camp personnel had completed their annual physicals approximately one month prior to beginning the work capacity testing. The test was being proctored by a timer and a conservation camp section chief. An EMT-B was on scene as required by policy.

The testing was conducted at a local high school on an all-weather, rubberized track. During the 11<sup>th</sup> lap, the crew captain collapsed and suffered respiratory difficulty and a diminished heart rate. The proctor dialed 911 and summoned an ambulance from the local jurisdiction. The medical personnel and co-workers administered CPR while awaiting the ALS ambulance service to arrive. Attention was paid to the mechanism of injury from the fall and c-spine precautions were taken. Some lacerations occurred on the face due to the fall.

Resuscitation efforts were successful.

The crew captain was transported to the Humboldt General Hospital where was stabilized and then transported by ground ambulance to Renown Medical Center in Reno Nevada for further treatment.