



**TO :**

**FROM :** National Wildfire Coordinating Group

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

**DATE :** 07/11/2008

**SUBJECT :** SAFETY BULLETIN : Preliminary 24-hour Briefing of Firefighter Drowning

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**Location:** Kimtu Beach – Trinity River – Approximately one mile northeast from the town of Willow Creek, Ca.

**Date of occurrence:** July 7, 2008

**Time of occurrence:** Approximately 1630 Hours

**Team leader:** Alan Vandiver

**Activity:** Apparent drowning of a firefighter from a contract wildland firefighting company from Merrill, Oregon.

**Mission:** Rest and Recuperation

**Number of fatalities:** One



24 Hour Notification Firefighter Drowning.doc

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United States  
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Forest  
Service

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National Forest

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**File Code:** 6700/5100

**Date:** July 8, 2008

**Route To:**

**Subject:** Preliminary 24-hour Briefing of Firefighter Drowning

**To:** Regional Forester – Randy Moore

**THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

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**Narrative:**

A firefighter on Rest and Recuperation at the Hells Half Complex Fire Camp went swimming with a group of coworkers at the Trinity River, Kimtu Beach Recreational Area. At approximately 1630 hours, Humboldt County Sheriff's responded to a reported drowning. When Sheriff's personnel arrived they noticed a group of individuals along the Trinity river bank. As Deputies were assessing the situation, they learned the firefighter was pulled from the water approximately 1/2 mile downstream. According to the Sheriff's Office, resuscitation efforts were unsuccessful.

*/s/ Tyrone Kelley*  
TYRONE KELLEY  
Forest Supervisor

cc: Alan Vandiver-Team Leader, Ron Ashdale-Chief Investigator, Jess Secrest-Incident Commander Northern Rockies Incident Management Team, Jim Pena - Deputy Regional Forester, Ann Garland - District Ranger, Gene Smalley - Regional Health and Safety Manager

