

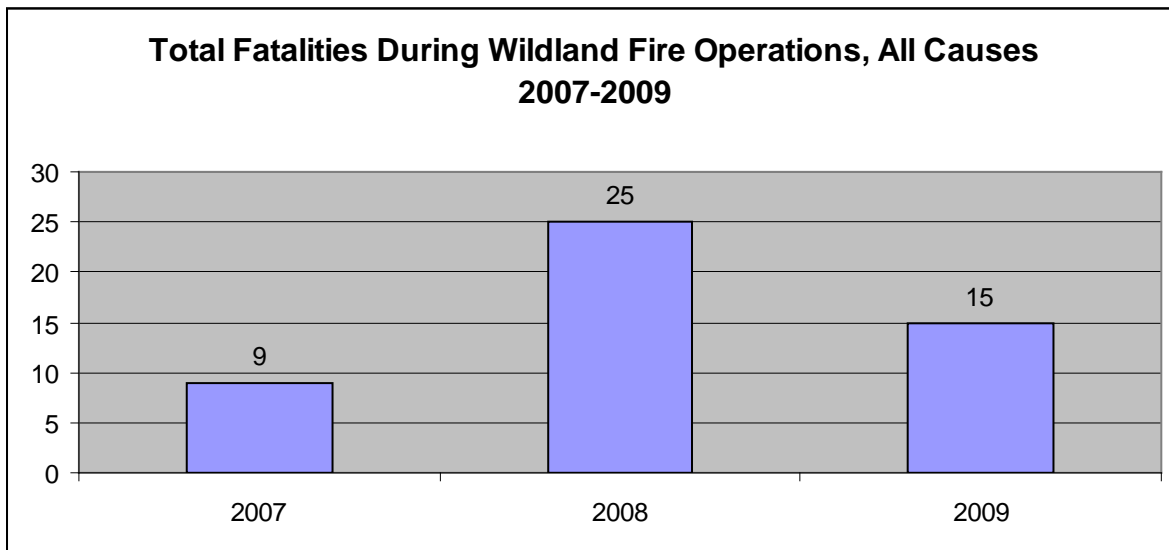


2009 Risk Management Summary

Risk Management Committee members recognize the importance of trend tracking and trend analysis. Trend analysis is a critical component of a risk management program.

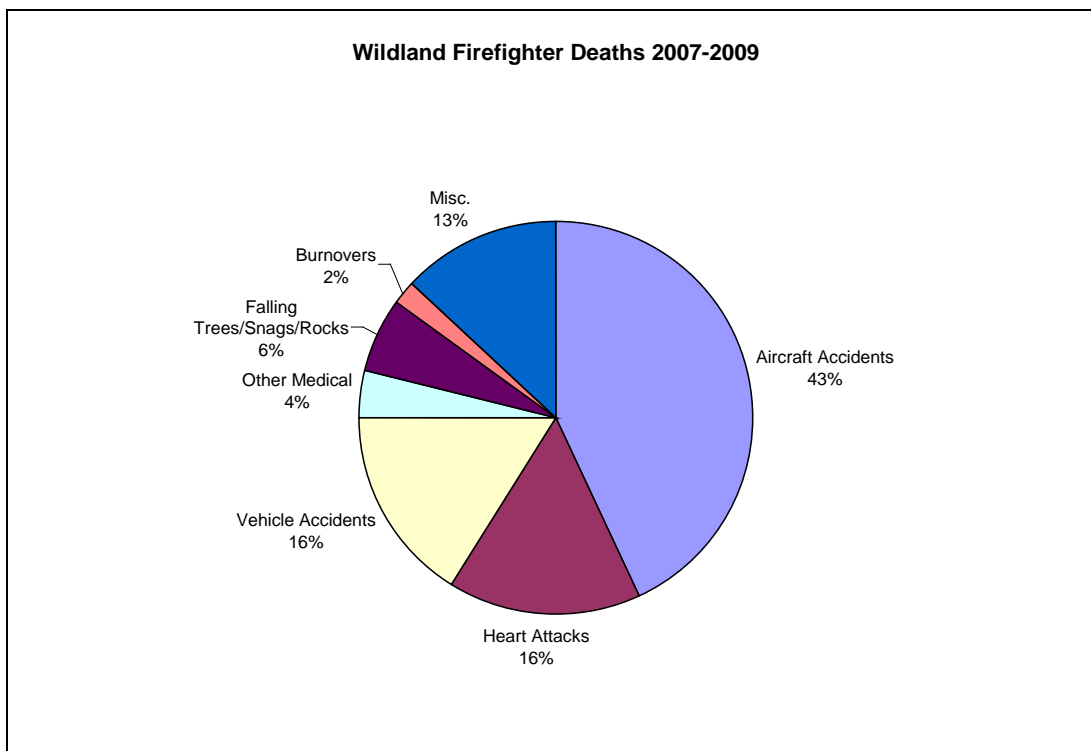
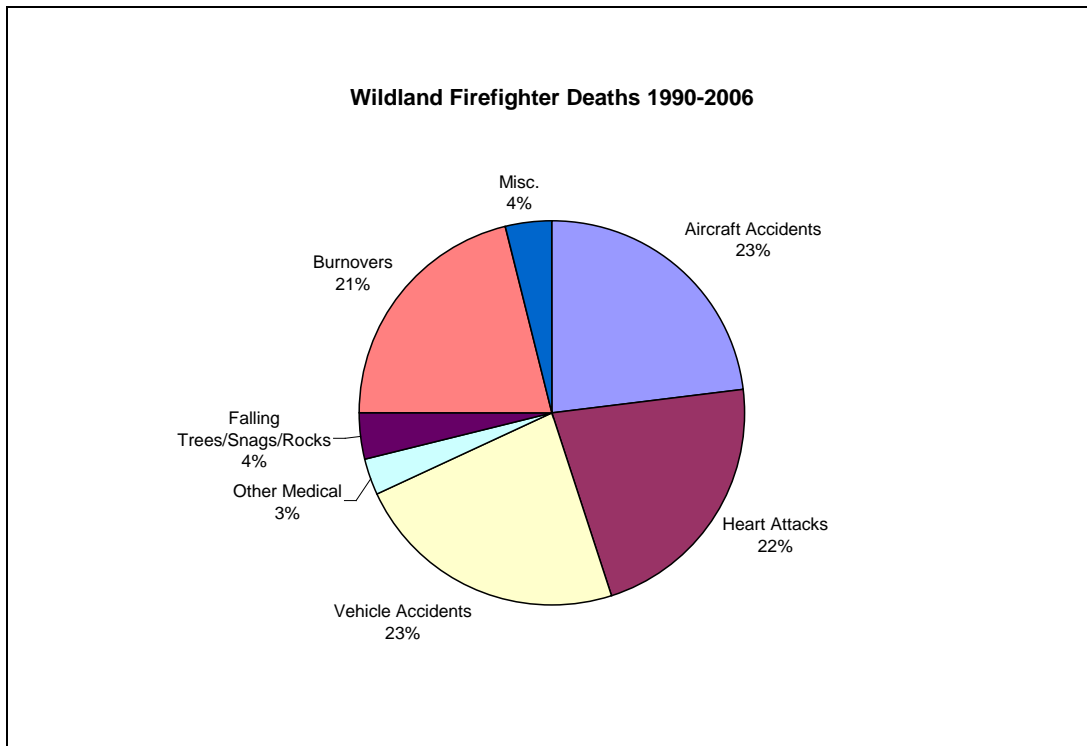
The purpose of this summary is to provide firefighters and fire and safety program managers with a “snapshot” of the previous year’s safety and health statistics along with some pertinent comparisons to historic trends.

- As identified in NWCG Safety Gram data, 15 wildland fire fatalities occurred nationwide in 2009. This was a decrease in fatalities from 2008 and an increase from 2007.

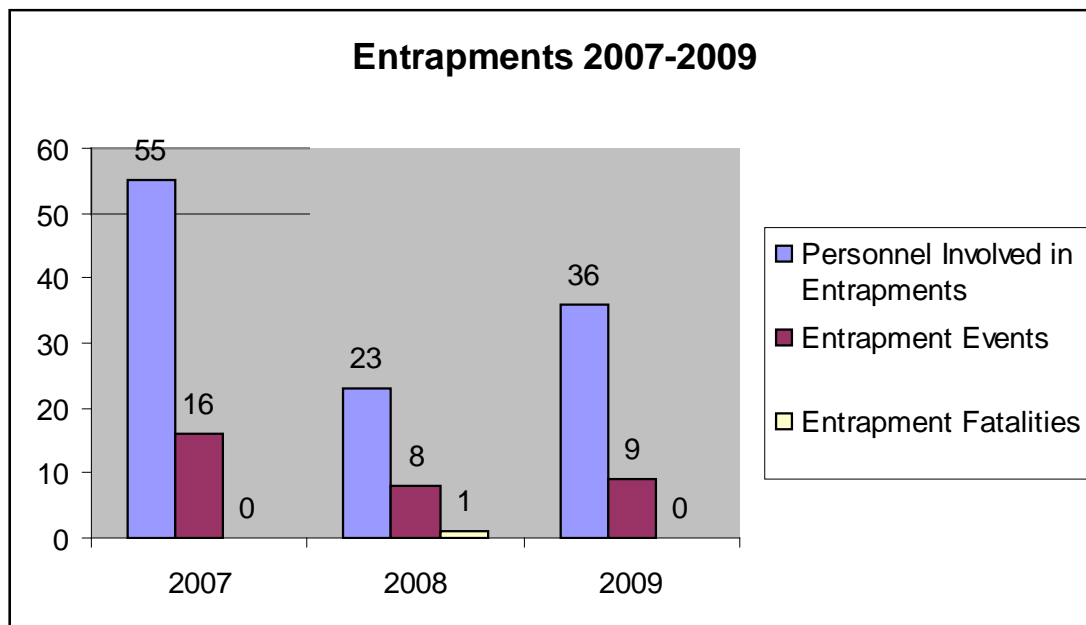


- Fatalities in 2009 include the following:
 - Aviation – Four separate aviation incidents were responsible for six fatalities.
 - Medical Emergencies – Five fatalities resulted from medical emergencies; four from heart attacks and one unknown cause of death.
 - Driving – One fatality occurred when two trucks collided in dense smoke. Two fatalities occurred when a fire vehicle left the roadway and rolled down a steep slope.
 - Hazard Tree/Tree Felling – One fatality occurred during tree falling training.

- Identified below is a comparison of fatality causes for the time periods of 1990-2006 and 2007-2009.



- Nine entrapment events involving 36 people were reported in 2009. No fatalities resulted from these entrapments.



- In 2009 the number of entrapments and number of personnel involved, saw an increase from 2008, but still less than in 2007.
 - From 1990 through 2006 entrapments resulted in an average of three to four fatalities each year. During the last three years, there was only one entrapment related fatality. While this is an encouraging trend, the number of personnel that are involved in entrapments each year remains a concern.
- Other noted Safety Gram trends:
 - In addition to the one hazard tree/tree felling fatality in 2009, four additional hazard tree/tree felling accidents were reported. In the last three years 14 hazard tree/tree felling accidents were reported in annual Safety Grams.
 - In 2009, there was an increase in firefighter burns from flammable liquids (e.g. drip torch fuel, portable pump gas).
 - In addition to the three driving fatalities in 2009, six additional driving related accidents were reported.
 - Nearly 30% of the accidents reported in the 2009 Safety Gram were not related to wildland fire suppression. Instead they occurred during training, prescribed fires and hazard fuels reduction.

- SAFENET report submittals decreased from 143 in 2008 to 123 in 2009. SAFENET reports contribute to national trend information. Notable 2009 findings include:
 - Human Factors (particularly leadership, situational awareness and risk assessments) was the leading contributing factor in SAFENET submittals.
 - Communications was the second leading contributing factor. Numerous SAFENETs addressed radio, repeater and telephone systems that were not operational, often for extended periods.
 - Equipment was the third leading contributing factor. Several SAFENETs addressed malfunctions with late model diesel powered engines and Sthil 441 chainsaws becoming inoperable during hot temperatures.
 - There was an increase in reports of heat exhaustion, dehydration and Rhabdomyolysis during organized physical training activities.
 - SAFENETs submitted for prescribed fire have been on the rise for the last three years and accounted for one-fifth of the total SAFENETs submitted in 2009.
 - For fire suppression operations Type 5 incidents accounted for the greatest number of SAFENETs submitted, followed closely by Type 4 and Type 3 incidents.
- A total of 830 SAFECOMs (U.S. Forest Service, Department of Interior and state) were submitted to the Interagency SAFECOM database in FY09. This is a decrease from FY08 when 959 SAFECOMs were submitted. The most common SAFECOM submittals were for:
 - Communications
 - Engine
 - Electrical
 - Pilot action
 - Instrument
 - Dragged load
 - Chip light
- The U.S. Forest Service and Department of Interior 2009 Aviation Safety Summaries can be found at the following weblinks:
 - http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/av_safety/assurance/fy_safety_reports/FY2009_Summary.pdf
 - <http://amd.nbc.gov/safety/library/AnnualSafetySummary/FY09+DOI+Aviation+Safety+Summary.pdf>

A primary objective of the Risk Management Committee is to provide information and tools to the wildland fire community to increase safety and health awareness and accident/injury prevention. The following websites provide resources in this regard:

NWCG Risk Management Committee (formerly known as the Safety and Health Working Team):
<http://www.nwcg.gov/branches/pre/rmc/>

Hazard Tree and Tree Felling Task Group (HTTF):
<http://www.nwcg.gov/branches/pre/rmc/httf/index.html>

Incident Emergency Medical Task Group (IEMTG):
<http://www.nwcg.gov/branches/pre/rmc/iemtg/index.html>

Federal Fire and Aviation Safety Team (FFAST):
<http://www.nifc.gov/safety/ffast.htm>

6 Minutes for Safety:
<http://www.wildfirelessons.net/uploads/6mfs/home.html>

Wildland Fire Safety Training Annual Refresher (WFSTAR):
<http://www.nifc.gov/wfstar/index.htm>

FireFit:
<http://www.nifc.gov/FireFit/index.htm>

Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center (LLC):
<http://www.wildfirelessons.net/Home.aspx>

Missoula Technology and Development Center (MTDC)
Fire Tech Tips and Health and Safety Publications
<http://www.fs.fed.us/t-d/> (when prompted use t-d for username and password)

Safety Gram
<http://www.nwcg.gov/branches/pre/rmc/safety-grams.htm>

SAFENET:
<http://safenet.nifc.gov/>

Safety Alerts:
<http://safenet.nifc.gov/notice.nsf>

SAFECOM:
<https://www.safecom.gov/>

Aviation Systems Safety:
<http://www.wildfirelessons.net/Additional.aspx?Page=177>